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THE HINDU

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Ukraine President sacks Ambassador to India Igor Polikha
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Rybakina beats Jabeur, wins Wimbledon title
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NEARBY

Road-widening: 2,104 trees to be transplanted

BENGALURU

With thousands of trees set to be felled for infrastructure development around Bengaluru, Karnataka's Public Works Department (PWD) has undertaken a massive tree transplantation programme in six major road-widening projects involving 154.82 km.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Storage in reservoirs inching up fast

MYSURU

Heavy rains in different parts of the State, following revival of southwest monsoon, has increased the inflow to several reservoirs in both the Cauvery and the Krishna basins. Major dams in the Cauvery basin are fast nearing the full reservoir level.

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THE HINDU
greets its readers
on the occasion of
ID-UL-AZHA

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Amid protests, Gotabaya agrees to quit

Protesters storm Presidential Secretariat; mob sets Ranil Wickremesinghe's private residence ablaze

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa will resign on July 13, the Parliamentary Speaker said on Saturday night, hours after protesters stormed the Presidential Secretariat and official and private homes of Mr. Gotabaya and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, in a show of striking public fury over the country's worsening economic crisis.

Late on Saturday, an angry mob set Mr. Wickremesinghe's private residence on fire, despite military security. The PM or his family was not at the residence at the time, his office said, adding there were no known casualties so far.

President Rajapaksa, according to top defence sources, left his official residence on Friday night "as a precaution". "He is under the protection of the military at a safe location in the country," a senior official, requesting anonymity, told *The Hindu*, while some media reports said he was evacuated by the Navy just hours before the incident.

Tens of thousands of citizens took out a massive rally on Saturday, as part of a fresh wave of protests on the island, reiterating their call for the President and Prime Minister to resign immediately, for failing to arrest the crushing economic downturn that has left citizens scrambling for essentials.

Of the people: Demonstrators protesting inside President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's official residence in Colombo on Friday. • REUTERS

Following an urgent party leaders' meeting convened by the Parliamentary Speaker on Saturday evening, Mr. Wickremesinghe said he would resign and facilitate an "all-party government". However, there was no official announcement of his stepping down as of Saturday night. "The PM has also told the President that he would resign as soon as such an all-party government presents itself, and is ready to take charge at once, as that is critical for the country's stability with key meetings and tasks are lined up this week," Dinouk Colombage, media spokesperson for the Prime Minister, told *The Hindu*.

The Speaker, who told party leaders that Mr. Gotabaya agreed to go by their collective decision, later conveyed to the President the party leaders' demand that he and the Prime Minister step down.

People's uprising

The developments came on the 92nd day of unceasing citizens' protests in Colombo, where dozens have been residing in a tent city of resistance, while other groups have continued protesting across the island, setting up local versions of 'Gota go gama's or 'Gota go' villages, to reiterate the chief demand of an unprecedented people's uprising in the island.

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PROTESTERS COOL OFF IN POOL IN PRESIDENTIAL PALACE ▸ PAGE 10

Ahead of FATF visit, Pak. doubles efforts to 'trace' Masood

Senior team to check execution of tasks

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

As Pakistan enters the final stages of its efforts to be taken off the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) "grey list" this year, all eyes are on action against Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) founder Masood Azhar and his brother Abdul Rauf Asghar, two of the men most wanted by India for their role in many terror attacks, including the IC 814 aeroplane hijack in 1999 and the Parliament attack in 2001.

While Rauf Asghar was taken into custody along with 44 JeM members in 2019, officials say Pakistani law enforcement agencies are now in the process of "assessing" Masood Azhar's whereabouts, including whether he is in Pakistan. The Pakistani law enforcement agencies have discussed tracking Azhar's possible move to Afghanistan with the Taliban regime as well, the officials said.

The Pakistani search for Azhar is being speeded up with some urgency, officials confirmed, as a senior FATF team is expected to visit Islamabad and other cities for an "on-site visit" from August 28 to September 2, to verify whether Pakistan has carried out all the actions on its 34-point task list handed after it was put on the "grey list" in 2018. If the team is satisfied by its findings, Pakistan is expected to be formally taken off the "increased monitoring" list, as the "grey list' is known, during the FATF's next plenary session in October.

According to submissions by the Pakistani government, its National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) held a meeting in early March to coordinate the hunt for Masood Azhar, who agencies claim is on the run, and the process to declare Azhar a "proclaimed offender" is under way. A terror financing case was also lodged against Azhar in March 2021, and more investigations are "contingent upon the arrest of Masood Azhar", the submissions said.

Pakistani investigations appear to conclude that Azhar is now either in Afghanistan, where the JeM has several training camps, or in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan along the border.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

15 bodies retrieved from Amarnath flood site

Over 100 injured rescued; search on for the missing

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The bodies of 15 pilgrims who were caught in Friday's flash flood near the Amarnath cave temple were recovered on Saturday, authorities involved in the rescue operations said.

Over 100 injured were rescued, as multiple teams combed through rubble. They are shifting the survivors to safer locations from the narrow valley below the temple. The flash flood triggered by an anomalous weather event led to massive flooding and displacement of boulders on Friday.

"A massive joint rescue operation is in progress. Thirty-five injured persons have been airlifted for medical attention. They are stable. Efforts are on to clear the debris and locate both the dead and survivors," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

Army jawans shifting an injured pilgrim to Baltal in central Kashmir on Saturday. • NISSAR AHMAD

Official assessment suggested that the casualties included seven women. Not all dead pilgrims could be identified immediately, they said. BSF helicopters shifted the bodies to Srinagar, where the identification process was on.

Most of the 41 pilgrims reported missing on Friday were traced on Saturday. There is no official confirmation on the number of those still missing. Dog squads, hand-held thermal imagers and cutters were used to trace those missing.

An Army spokesman said 28 injured pilgrims were evacuated from the cave area to the Nilagrar medical camp in Baltal. An Indian Air Force spokesman said 65 sorties were conducted on Saturday and 108 injured people were evacuated.

The Army, the Border Security Force, the J&K Police and the civil administration deployed helicopters to help affected pilgrims.

Yatra to resume soon

After early morning showers, the weather improved during the day. "All stranded pilgrims are being shifted to Pahalgam. The yatra may resume within a day or two," Kuldiep Singh, Director-General, CRPF, said.

Many survivors recounted their harrowing experience on Friday. "In a jiffy, the mud and sludge descending from the hill top filled the lower areas and entered the tents where people were resting. We could see pilgrims being swept away by the gushing waters," Naresh Kumar from Uttar Pradesh said.

350 Amarnath yatris from State stranded

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

As many as 370 Amarnath yatra pilgrims from Karnataka are believed to be in different locations in Jammu and Kashmir, where several people have died and dozens are missing after flash floods caused landslips near the Baltal base camp on Friday.

57 calls received

According to an update by the Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) on Saturday till 8 p.m., the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) had received 57 calls from relatives of pilgrims, mainly because of mobile connectivity and the fact that only mobile with prepaid SIMs are working.

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20 red pandas to make a home in the forests

In first re-wilding programme of these animals, Darjeeling zoo to release them in Singalila National Park

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
DARJEELING

The Singalila National Park, the highest protected area in West Bengal, will soon get new denizens. A zoo in the picturesque Darjeeling Hills has started an ambitious programme to augment the wild red panda population.

In the first re-wilding programme of red pandas *(Ailurus fulgens)* in India, the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park will release 20 of these furry endangered mammals in about five years to the forests.

The number of red pandas has been declining in the wild, even in the Singalila and Neora Valley National Parks, the two protected areas where the mammal is found in the wild in West Bengal. Recent studies estimate that there are 38 of them in Singalila and 32 in Neora.

Safe zone: A red panda at the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park in Darjeeling. • DEBASISH BHADURI

Basavaraj Holeyachi, Director of the zoological park who is at the centre of the Red Panda Augmentation Programme, says conservation breeding of red pandas is only one part of the programme. Selection of animals to be released in the wild, breaking their food association with humans and tagging the animals released in the wild are crucial factors in re-wilding of the red panda population, he adds.

The Padmaja Naidu park, at a height of about 2,000 metres above the sea level, is one of the high-altitude zoos in the country and has been quite successful in captive breeding of the furry mammals.

With the birth of a couple of cubs a few weeks ago, the number of red pandas at the Darjeeling zoo has increased to 27. Dr. Holeyachi told *The Hindu* it was the coordination zoo for conservation breeding of red pandas in the country with decades of experience. He said most other high-altitude zoos were participatory zoos that have animals given by it.

In 2021, two pairs of red pandas were released in the Singalila park. While two died, signals were received from two animals who managed to survive in the wild. The zoo director said this year, three females are likely to be released in October in Singalila. Dr. Holeyachi said the whole process of selection and identification of animals to be released in the wild is time-consuming and meticulous.

Categorised as an endangered species as per IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, red pandas are shy, solitary and arboreal animals and considered an indicator species for ecological change.

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Rest stop: The Baltal base camp, 105 km northeast of Srinagar, for the Amarnath pilgrimage. Through the less-steep Baltal route, which was opened in 1999, pilgrims trek 14 km to the temple and return in a day.

Morning routine: Getting ready for the trek outside a tent at Baltal.

Mountain pilgrimage

Over 60,000 pilgrims trekked to the Amarnath temple till disaster struck on July 8

TEXT BY PEERZADA ASHIQ & IMAGES BY NISSAR AHMAD

Under clear skies, over 4,890 pilgrims headed for the Amarnath cave temple in Kashmir on June 30, becoming the first batch to trek to the temple situated at an altitude of 3,657 metres in the Himalayas after a long gap. The yatra had been cut short in 2019, days ahead of the Centre's move to end J&K's special status on August 5, 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic led to its cancellation in 2021 and 2022.

The traditional trekking route from Pahalgam in south Kashmir is the toughest. Pilgrims are advised to stay at the Nunwan base camp in Pahalgam for a night to acclimatise themselves with the weather and altitude.

Pilgrims drive from the Nunwan camp and stop at Chandanwari to start the over 30-km trek. The toughest pass is the Mahagunas Pass at an altitude of 4,276 metres. Most pilgrims stay at Sheshnag for a night before heading for "darshan".

The less-steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir was opened in 1999 to ease pressure on Pahalgam. Pilgrims trek 14 km and returned in a day to Baltal.

This year, the yatra saw the first helicopter service between Srinagar and the temple. This helped many pilgrims avoid driving through volatile pockets in south and central Kashmir and complete "darshan" in one day. The biggest worry for the J&K administration and security agencies was the intelligence inputs about likely militant attacks.

Over 60,000 pilgrims have already visited the temple. But on July 8, a localised heavy downpour led to flash floods that caused many deaths and washed away tents, community kitchens and kiosks. With the weather improving, the pilgrimage is likely to resume and will conclude on August 11, Raksha Bandhan day.

Gearing up: Brisk sales of raincoats and other protective gear at the base camp.

The road ahead: Pilgrims make their way on foot and on horses along the mountain path near Baltal.

Drive to prevent PU students from riding two-wheelers

Traffic police officials to visit pre-university colleges to counsel students

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Not yet 18 years old? Think twice before riding a vehicle. The Bengaluru City Traffic Police (BTP) have launched a special drive to prevent pre-university (PU) students from commuting to colleges on two-wheelers. The police said the drive was initiated after they observed how many students below 18 years of age and with no driving licence commute to college on two-wheelers registered in the name of their parents.

"We are requesting colleges to ensure students below the age of 18 and with no driving licence do not ride two-wheelers to colleges. We are also appealing to parents not to let such children use bikes. If the children commit traffic offences, cases will be booked on the owner of the vehicle and it will be an unnecessary problem, apart from endangering road safety and safety of their own children," said B.R. Ravikanthe Gowda, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Bengaluru.

Many students aged under 18 and with no driving licence commute to college on two-wheelers registered in the name of their parents, the police say. •FILE PHOTO

He added that BTP officials would visit PU colleges from Monday and counsel students through their teachers and college principals about not using two-wheelers.

Colleges welcome move

While college administrations have welcomed the move, students who require to travel long distances are not happy. The colleges say that while most middle-class parents prefer to drop and pick up their children from college, others prefer to send them through public transport. Vehicles are mostly brought by degree college students, they maintained.

"It is a good move. We too have observed that many accidents involve teenage riders. A large number of PU students across our colleges do not bring their bikes, but the ones who do will also stop now due to this. It will also prevent unnecessary choking of traffic," said Wooday P. Krishna, general secretary of Seshadripuram Educational Trust.

Natesh H.E., Principal, MES PU College, Malleswaram, said students at the college do not bring their vehicles as there is no space for parking on the premises.

The main reason why PU students want to bring their two-wheelers to college is because of the lack of public transport facilities. "I do not have any metro station near my house or my college. I cannot rely on buses as they do not come at the same time every day. If I have classes early or an extra class, I cannot keep waiting for the bus. I take all precautions, wear my helmet and ride within the prescribed speed limit only. What is the harm?" questioned Nayana (name changed), student of a college in Koramangala.

"I am writing my NEET exam this year and for that I have to go for coaching. This centre is quite far from my college and I cannot reach there on time if I rely on buses. My parents work and they do not have time to drop me or pick me up. I only ride an electric bike and I cannot even go very fast on it. I ride safely," said Karthik, another student.

Documenting neighbourhood

Showcasing it: 'Malleswaram Parichaya', an exhibition by students of BMS College of Architecture documenting the locality, was held at Government Girls High School (HVN bungalow) on Saturday. •K. MURALI KUMAR

Draupadi Murmu to be in city today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Draupadi Murmu, the National Democratic Alliance nominee for the presidential election, will visit Bengaluru on Sunday to seek support from Bharatiya Janata Party legislators and Parliament members.

Tribal artists

Karnataka BJP said in a press release that Ms. Murmu would be welcomed by 20 groups of tribal artists. Around 2,500 women members too would gather at hotel Shangrila where Ms. Murmu would be staying.

July 18 polls

The party's ST morcha held a meeting at the party office on Saturday to discuss the details of her visit to Kanataka ahead of the presidential elections slated for July 18.

Opposition presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha had visited Bengaluru last weekend and met Congress legislators and Parliament members.

The Janata DAl (Secular) has shown an inclination to back Ms. Murmu.

Newly floated organisation calls for Chamarajpet bandh

Zameer Ahmed, MLA, has appealed for withdrawal of the call

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A newly formed outfit, Chamarajpet Nagareekara Okkoota Vedike, which came into existence on July 3 with an aim to "save the playground" [Idgah Maidan], has called for Chamarajpet Bandh on July 12 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

S. Rukmangada, general secretary of the vedike, said they were fighting to save the playground and also for "their rights to hold Hindu and national festivals at the ground".

"The ground should remain with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and not go to the Karnataka State Board of Wakf. We demand it be renamed after Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, the last king of Mysore," he said. The vedike has formed a committee to "legally fight to save the playground" and has several BJP members, including N.R. Ramesh, president, BJP Bengaluru South; Vivek Reddy, president, BJP legal cell, and the former MLA Pramila Nesargi. However, Mr. Rukmangada maintained that theirs was a non-partisan fight.

'Will remain playground'

The vedike has come down heavily on local Congress MLA B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan for "conspiring to hand over the land to the wakf board". Responding to rumours that a mosque will be built on the land, Mr. Khan, who spoke to the media following a peace meeting on Friday, said the ground would always remain a playground and so there was no question of saving the playground.

He appealed to those who have called for a bandh to withdraw the call.

However, the vedike in its statement, said they were not part of the peace meeting and the bandh would be successful. "The MLA is still not saying it is a BBMP property. He is conspiring to hand it over to the wakf board," the vedike alleged.

The vedike also criticised Chief Commissioner of the BBMP Tushar Giri Nath "for giving up the BBMP's claims over the playground". However, Mr. Giri Nath had recently said documents submitted by the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf (wakf) showed that the BBMP had been permanently injuncted from entering the land. Despite this, the land was shown as a playground in the 1974 city survey and civic records since then, causing confusion.

'Bookworm' Krishna crosses a milestone

Documentary by one of his customers to be screened today at BIC

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

It was quite by chance that 'Bookworm' Krishna, one of the go-to persons for all bibliophiles in the city, ended up selling books in 1997 rather than onions.

Recounting how he came to sell books 25 years ago, Krishna Gowda said after completing his pre-university, he had to seek a job due to financial constraints at home.

"My uncle had an onion shop in Mysuru and asked me to work at the shop during the day and join an evening college. But Mayee Gowda of Blossom Book House, also from my village, Rangasamudra, in Mysuru, had already come to Bengaluru and was selling books on the pavement of M.G. Road and asked me to work with him. That's how I ended up selling books in 1997 and have never looked back since then," he said.

To mark the 25th anniversary of his stepping into this business, one of his loyal customers V.R. Ferose has made a documentary titled 'The Bookman of Bengaluru', which will be screened at Bangalore International Centre (BIC) on Sunday evening.

Krishna Gowda at his bookstore on Church Street in Bengaluru. •K. MURALI KUMAR

From 1997-2001, he worked with Mr. Mayee Gowda, even as he pursued undergraduate studies in an evening college. He branched out on his own, starting Bookworm, initially on the pavement of M.G. Road in January 2001 and moved into a shop in 2004. At one point, he owned three shops, including one dedicated to children's books. Now Bookworm runs out of a sprawling two-floor shop on Church Street. "If I have grown, it is only thanks to the bibliophile community of Bengaluru and their support. While the book trade has been financially rewarding, it is probably the only trade that is also intellectually rewarding," said Mr. Krishna Gowda.

Filling the gap

City-based historian Ramachandra Guha, a loyal customer of Bookworm, said he loved browsing and buying books at the store. "I am not partial between Blossom Book House and Bookworm and buy books from both. A city like Bengaluru should have had very good public libraries and in their absence, people like Krishna are filling the gap to some extent," he said.

He will also be speaking at the event on Sunday.

Online footprint soon

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Bookworm will soon expand its footprint online with a mobile app where you can browse the catalogue, order books, and get them home delivered. "Readers have today increasingly moved online. So we are also moving there," said Krishna Gowda the store owner. A new branch of Bookworm will likely come up on the Outer Ring Road near Hosakerehalli from where the online business will operate, by year-end, he said.

Tipper rams into bike, pillion rider killed

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A pillion rider was killed and a biker injured when a tipper rammed into their two-wheeler near Nagarabhavi Circle on Saturday morning. The tipper was associated with a contractor doing Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) works, sources said.

Yogendra, 41, and his wife, Vijayakala, 37, were on their way from to work when the accident occurred. The lorry rammed into the bike from behind and the couple fell down on impact. The left front wheel of the tipper ran over Vijayakala, severely injuring her, while Yogendra also suffered severe injuries. Both of them were rushed to a nearby private hospital where Vijayakala succumbed to her injuries later in the day. Yogendra is undergoing treatment.

Driver arrested

Byatarayanapura traffic police have arrested the tipper lorry driver and booked him for causing death due to negligence and rash driving.

In a first, city police get properties of drug peddler attached

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The city police have for the first time got the properties of a narcotics peddler attached and his family's bank accounts frozen. The police have attached ₹50-lakh worth agricultural land and ₹3 lakh in various bank accounts linked to the peddler.

Mallesh G., a ganja peddler from Pushpapura village in Hanur taluk of Chamarajanagar district, was arrested by the Konanakunte Cross police for peddling ganja in the city in 2018. He is a habitual offender and has seven cases pending against him in Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Chamarajanagar districts between 2014 and 2022. He used to buy ganja at lower prices from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha and peddle them in the State.

City Police Commissioner C.H. Pratap Reddy transferred the probe into the 2018 Konanakunte Cross case to the Anti-Narcotics Bureau of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) to be probed under Sections 68 (e) and (f) of Chapter 5A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, which provide for attachment of assets of habitual drug traffickers. Taking up a probe under the relevant sections, the Anti-Narcotics Bureau ordered a provisional attachment of assets of Mallesh – 8 acres of agricultural land in Shagya village, Chamarajanagar, which he had bought in the name of his wife and children in 2013, worth ₹50 lakh now, and ₹3 lakh kept in five bank accounts of his and his family members.

As per procedure, the police submitted the provisional attachment order to the Competent Authority for Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976, and the NDPS Act, 1985, in Chennai. The Competent Authority inquired into it within the stipulated 30 days and confirmed the order on Friday. The inquiry by the Competent Authority revealed lakhs of rupees accrued in bank accounts held by Mallesh and his family members but he has suppressed the income without declaring it to the Income Tax Department.

Home-alone woman tied up, robbed

She was rescued by her son later

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A man barged into a house where a woman was alone on Friday night, threatened her at knifepoint, tied her up, and robbed her of ₹7-lakh worth 140 grams of gold jewellery that was on her.

Rihan, a resident of Abbigere, was alone at home on Friday night, as her family members who had gone out for work had not returned yet. Around 8 p.m., a man barged into her house, threatened her at knife-point, tied her hands and legs, snatched her mobile phone, and fled with all the gold jewellery on her.

She was rescued by her son who returned from work at around 10 p.m. The Gangammana Gudi police have registered a case and are analysing footage from nearby CCTV cameras to identify suspect.

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This notice is issued on behalf of My client Sri.T.Ramesh S/o Thimmarayappa to bring the notice of the general public that the original registered absolute sale deed, bearing Doc.No.1746/1971-72 of Book-I, Page-205-207, Volume-2317, registered in the office of the sub-register, Gandhinagar, Bangalore, executed by Smt.Alamelamma & others in favour of Sri.Thimmarayappa is missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.
If any person's, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the undersigned in writing within 7 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Old Municipal No.7, New No.8, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 20 feet, in all measuring 800 Sq.feet, situated at Rajamahal Guttahalli, Muniswara Temple Street, now comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore & bounded by:
East by : Public Road (Nagappa Street),
West by : Conservancy Road,
North by : Sri.VeeraChandrappa's House
South by : Remaining portion of Site measuring 40 x 20 feet.
H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
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Take notice that my client Mr. Balakrishna.C S/o Nagaraju.C is intending to purchase Schedule property from Mr. S.C. Nagaraja & Smt. G. Bhagya Nagaraja and the same being acquired from Sri C B Siddaiah vide sale deed dated 18/06/2020 bearing Reg.No.PNY-1-00458-2020-21, CD No.PNYD1065, Book-I, Registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Peenya, Bangalore.
If any person/firm/institution /Company having any claim or right in respect of the Schedule property is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within Seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or Claim, if any with all supporting documents failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim and the claims, if any of such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on my client.
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All the piece and parcel of Site No. 58, Assessment No. 14 and 15/2, situated at Bangalore North Taluk, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Harohalli Grama, BBMP Ward No. 72, Bangalore, measuring East to West : 40 feet, North to South : 30 feet, Totally 1200 sqft. and bounded on : EAST by : Site No. 59, WEST by : 30 feet Road, NORTH by : Site No. 49, SOUTH by : Site No. 51.
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Eligibility :
• More than 10 years of experience in Industry / Healthcare sector in senior positions with demonstrated understanding and impact on domain / practice.
• Interested and potential to teach MBA courses as a full-time activity in one of the following areas:
  ○ Technology & Operations Management / Analytics
  ○ Supply Chain Management / Sustainability
• MBA and / or Ph.D / Fellow from IIMs / IITs / other reputed Institutions. A lack of Ph.D. must be offset by demonstrated domain knowledge, obtained from the practice.
The candidate shall be evaluated for their exceptional contributions either because of their unique expertise or because of their potential contribution through teaching quality and exceptional service towards strengthening industry-academia linkages.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR [3 Positions]
Candidates must demonstrate capability for conducting high quality research and should have completed or be at the final stages of completing their Ph.D. from IIMs / IITs / other reputed Institutions. Specifically, candidates in the following areas are invited:
  ○ Organizational Behaviour
  ○ Productions & Operations Management / Analytics
  ○ Behavioural Economics
All candidates are expected to contribute to SRFMS' MBA, Doctoral and Executive Education Programmes.
Salary for the deserving candidates will not be a constraint.
Interested candidates may send their updated Resume, list of references and samples of recent research output
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VACANCIES
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WANTED
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Qualification: PhD in Arts/Commerce preferably Experienced in NAAC
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Law Faculty Requirement (Immediate)
Electrical Maintenance Incharge
with a knowledge of HT/LT panels operation of DG and a overall knowledge of STP & WTP system. CC Camera, plumbing, smart boards with basic computer knowledge
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Qualification: B.P.Ed Experience: 2-3 Years
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WANTED FRESHERS (Male) Chennai BE – EEE / ECE Core field – hr@gkexpertise.com

Care at hand: A wait outside the temporary hospital at Baltal.

Meal time: Food service at the camp.

All set: Security personnel stand guard as pilgrims gather in the early morning before starting their trek.

Souvenir stalls: Shops just below the holy cave at Amarnath.

Yatra interrupted: Soldiers carry a person injured in the flash flood on July 8 for treatment at Baltal.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, JUL. 10	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:50
RISE 15:22	SET 02:12
MONDAY, JUL. 11	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:50
RISE 16:26	SET 03:05
TUESDAY, JUL. 12	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:50
RISE 17:35	SET 04:05

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	23
Mysuru	27	20
Bengaluru	25	20

Bengaluru Today
26°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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4,260 trees to be felled, 2,104 transplanted for road-widening

A total of 7,500 trees to be affected by six projects around the city

NAGESH PRABHU
BENGALURU

With thousands of trees set to be felled for infrastructure development around Bengaluru, Karnataka's Public Works Department (PWD) has undertaken a massive tree transplantation programme in six major road-widening projects involving 154.82 km.

According to official sources in the PWD, about 7,500 trees would be affected by road-widening works around Bengaluru. Of them, 2,104 trees would be transplanted to around lakes and barren land in the city and on the outskirts of the city. As many as 4,260 trees are identified for felling, while 1,136 have been identified for retention.

A six-member expert committee of the University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bengaluru, has suggested a methodology for transplantation of trees.

Tree transplantation work undertaken by the KRDL at Budigere Cross in Bengaluru.

Impact of road-widening projects

Trees affected: 7,500
Trees identified for retention: 1,136
Trees identified for transplantation: 2,104
Trees identified for felling: 4,260

Road projects

Sources said the KRDL has taken up road-widening works from Budigere Cross on the national highway to KIA via Bengaluru; Nelamangala to Madhure via Gollahalli; Madhure to Devanahalli Road via Rajanakunte; Bidadi to Jigani via Harohalli; Bannerghatta to Anekal via Jigani; and Anekal to Katanallur Gate on NH-4 via Attibele, Sarjapur, Varthur, totalling 154.82 km.

Types of trees that are identified for transplantation include gulmohar, sissoo, honge, kaya, arali, bevu, basari, neelgiri, acacia, and cassia fistula.

A total of 18 locations have been identified for the transplantation of trees. Transplantation would be taken up around lakes/tanks of Hoskote, Hessarghatta, Sonnenahalli, Shanubhoganahalli, Mailanahalli, Dibbur, Singanayakanahalli, Gantiganahalli, Nalasandra, Haragadde, Arehalli, Yamare, Gunjur, Bettakore forest area, and areas of Anchebere Madappanadoddi, Krishna Doddi, and Mandur, sources told *The Hindu* on Saturday. Machinery such as earthmovers, tractors, tippers, and cranes would be used in the transplantation process.

Care for trees

The transplanted trees should be watered daily for about three years, said expert committee headed by C. Nagarajaiah, professor, Department of Forestry and Environment, UAS, GKVK.

Experts said all the transplanted trees should be inspected for disease infestation or insect attack every week. Infestation should be reported to authorities concerned for carrying out remedial measures by spraying approved insecticide or fungicide. Further, experts said necessary silvicultural practices should be followed, based on the nutrient deficiency.

Other factors that determine the health of a transplanted tree included location, type of soil, nature of root structure, and species of the tree.

Public Works Minister C.C. Patil has issued a circular instructing department engineers to make maximum efforts to save trees while constructing buildings of colleges and courts in urban areas. Nearly 1,500 trees have been transplanted in different road projects in the State.

PRR: 2018-19 guidance value may be base for fixing relief

Delay in implementing project has irked landowners, farmers

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is likely to fix 2018-19 guidance value as the base price to decide the compensation for Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) land acquisition. The BDA had recently floated a tender for the project, but it was scrapped as investors asked the authority to come out with more clarity on the land acquisition cost involved in the project and sought more time to carry out the surveys. Prior to floating a fresh tender, the State government is likely to take a final decision on the compensation package.

BDA chairman S.R. Vishwanath said the authority would float fresh tenders for the project in seven or 10 days. "Earlier, investors sought a response from the BDA on the compensation package. There is a proposal to consider 2018-19 guidance value as the base price upon which a certain percentage of hike will be decided. The guidance value varies from location to location. A final decision in this regard will be taken at the State government level by the Chief Minister," he said.

The 74-km project, which requires 2,560 acres of land, will connect Tumakuru Road with Hosur Road. The proposed PRR will be integrated with NICE road at both points. More than 15 years ago, the BDA notified 1,810 acres of land. Last year, a decision was taken to acquire an additional 750 acres of land for integration with NICE road, toll plaza, and others.

In a nutshell

The 74-km project connects Tumakuru Road with Hosur Road

PRR to connect Doddaballapur Road, Ballari Road, Old Madras Road

1,810 acres notified more than 15 years ago

Land required 2,560 acres

The project will be taken up under PPP model along the lines of design, build, finance, operate, transfer model

Long wait

The delay in implementing the project, however, has irked landowners and farmers, with multiple protests being held demanding fair compensation in the past. Eshwar Reddy of PRR Raitha Horata Samiti said, "We have waited all these years. We want the BDA to make it clear whether they want to take up the project or not. If they are taking up the project, the landowners should be compensated as per the provisions of the 2013 Land Acquisition Act. We do not agree with other offers. The BDA has been saying that they will hold a meeting with us, but so far, it has not happened. Farmers and landowners have suffered a lot due to inordinate delays in taking up the project. We have also submitted our requisition to the Chief Secretary seeking fair compensation." He added that the samiti will stage a protest on July 12 against the BDA.

On the other hand, BDA officials have been maintaining that as per the Supreme Court order, the BDA Act applies for fixing compensation for land acquisition, but admitted that farmers would not agree as it would be very low and fixing the rate as per 2013 Land Acquisition Act would result in a steep hike in land acquisition cost. "The BDA has to find a way out and take farmers into confidence," said an official.

Mr. Vishwanath said, "We have not received opposition from the farmers. We will hold a meeting with them. The farmers who are going to lose entire land for the project will have some difficulty and those who give up a portion of the land for the project will benefit in the long run as the project will increase their land price in coming years."

For the previous tender, eight investors had participated, including two foreign companies. The BDA wants to take up the project under PPP model along the lines of design, build, finance, operate, transfer (DBFOT) model.

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'Technology opens up new avenues to preserve, propagate Sanskrit'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Technology has opened up new opportunities to preserve and propagate Sanskrit, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu said at the ninth annual convocation and decennial celebration of the Karnataka Samskrit University here on Saturday.

"Digitalisation of ancient manuscripts, epigraphs, and inscriptions, recording of the recitation of the Vedas, and publishing books bringing out the meaning and significance of ancient Sanskrit treatises would be some of the ways to preserve our culture embedded in Sanskrit texts. We must make it a mass movement to revive Sanskrit learning where all the stakeholders should contribute to the re-discovery of India's rich classical literature and cultural heritage," he said.

He said Sanskrit helps us understand the soul of India. "If one has to understand the Indian worldview, one has to learn Sanskrit. If one has to appreciate the literary genius of Indian poets, one must be familiar with Sanskrit. If one has to research the civilisational richness of our great country, one has to be a student of Sanskrit," Mr. Naidu said.

Appreciating the role of institutions such as the Karnataka Samskrit University in the preservation of classical languages, he urged the universities to engage in active research on the ancient texts and make the research outcomes relevant to the contemporary world. Mr. Naidu also called for efforts to preserve the rich literature of all six classical Indian languages – Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.

On the occasion, the university conferred an honorary doctorate on three scholars – Acharya Pradyumna, V.S. Indiramma, and Vidwan Umakanth Bhat.

In his address, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot stressed the need for encouraging people to learn Sanskrit along with regional languages.

V-P calls for education in mother tongue and religious harmony

At the platinum jubilee celebrations of MCC, Naidu stresses on emancipation of women

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Friday batted for the inclusion of mother tongue in education and said that at least primary education should be taught in mother tongue as students will find it easy to understand, grasp, and communicate.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the platinum jubilee celebrations of Mount Carmel College (MCC) in the city. He also spoke about the removal of barriers which hinder women's emancipation.

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, and former Governor Margaret Alva releasing the special commemorative envelope, during the platinum jubilee of Mount Carmel College in Bengaluru on Saturday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

"There is a wrong perception that without English education, you cannot go to higher levels in life. The President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, and even the Chief Justice of India (CJI) were educated in their mother tongues and did not go to any convents. Along with the mother tongue, learn as many languages as possible. Do not neglect them. Learn English too as it will help in international communication and pursuit of higher studies," Mr. Naidu said.

He also stressed on the need to provide greater opportunities for women in various disciplines and the need to emphasise more on women's education with consistent efforts from the government's side. Adding that the education of women had been in focus in the country since ancient times, he took the names of scholars such as Gargi and Maitreyi and the role of Attimabbe, Sovaladevi, and the Veerashaiva movement in pursuing education as a means of emancipation in the State. He also lauded the alumnus of the MCC who have achieved great heights in various fields since the Independence.

While encouraging students to be confident, hard-working and disciplined, Mr. Naidu also appealed to the students to treat religion as a personal matter and said that while one can take pride in practising it, they should not denigrate others' religious beliefs.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot urged women to make use of empowerment policies. He spoke about the role which will be played by education to battle the current issues of the world like climate change and environmental pollution. "We need to practice simple and sustainable lifestyles," he said. He also appreciated the spirit of service displayed by the staff and administration of the MCC over the years.

A special commemorative envelope of India Post was released during the celebration.

Govt. asks for data of writers, artists

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The State Government has planned to collect the data of writers and artists and to give them the identity cards.

Karnataka Sahitya Academy, Bengaluru, in a release has asked all writers and artists to upload their data on the Seva Sindhu portal on karnataka.gov.in by July 15, 2022.

Mild tremors felt in parts of N. Karnataka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

Residents of Vijayapura, Jamkhandi, Shirahatti, and nearby areas felt mild tremors on Saturday morning. No damages or loss of life was reported from anywhere.

"We felt a sense of panic as everyone ran out of their homes and stood outside," said Bheemanagouda Paragonda, a resident of Athani.

"Residents were confused when the ground began to shake early in the morning. Some young children who were still asleep were woken up by their mothers and taken outside. However, the effect did not last. The tremors ended in a few seconds," he said.

The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) said the event had a magnitude of 4.4 on the Richter scale. According to a release, the epicentre was 2.3 km northwest of Kannur Gram Panchayat in Vijayapura district. It lies on the border of Karnataka Maharashtra.

The epicentre was over 81 kilometres from the Alamatti dam and around 25 kilometres from Vijayapura city.

In a release, KSNDMC Director Manoj Rajan appealed urged the people not to panic as the quake was of moderate intensity.

Higher Education Council comes out with common calendar of events for UG, PG colleges

Ashwath Narayan wants the schedule be mandatorily followed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State Higher Education Council (SHEC) has prepared a common calendar of events for academic activities in universities and degree colleges for the first time. C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Minister for Higher Education, has instructed all universities and colleges in the State to mandatorily follow the calendar of events worked out for the academic year 2022-23.

As per the calendar, the admission for degree courses across the State would commence on July 11 and classes would start between August 17 and 24. Likewise, admission for post-graduation would commence on October 15, and classes for the same would start between November 2 and 14. So far, each university would have its own calendar of events and this was causing inconvenience and confusion among students. Considering the plight of students, the common calendar of events has been brought out, the Minister explained.

A release said the calendar has been finalised after consultations with Vice-Chancellors and Registrars of all the universities in the State at a virtual meeting held on July 7 chaired by B. Thimme Gowda, Vice-Chairperson, State Higher Education Council.

The calendar contains the schedule of commencing date of semesters, admission period with/without fine, dates on which classes for respective semesters begin, dates on which classes for respective dates end, dates on which examination and valuation commence, and date of announcement of results, details of holidays, etc.

"A total of 6 undergraduate courses, 4 post-graduate courses, and 8 semesters of professional courses have been considered while preparing the calendar. It has been instructed that faculty on vacation should attend the assigned examination work including valuation," Dr. Ashwath Narayan said. He chaired the meeting of Vice-Chancellors and Registrars regarding this on July 7.

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BENGALI KAYASTHA girl 31+, 5ft 7inch MA Economics PGDBM working in Bangalore seeks suitable match from qualified value – oriented groom preferably working in Bengaluru Hyderabad Chennai. Contact 7259549872

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DOCTOR, PURSUING DM. AIIMS Delhi, 28/160, Tamil, Hindu, Mudaliar, Makam, seeks suitable groom. Masters/PhD in any field. Contact parents 9880016674, 9449821952.

KERALITE HINDU Girl, Divorced, Asst. Professor, Central University, Delhi. 33yrs/165cm, Chothi, Delhi Settled. Preferred Engineers/Doctors/Govt. Officers.Ct: 9447400724, 7994313295

SC AD CSI 37/165 M.Sc., MPH (USA) working in World Bank seeks suitable Alliance from well Qualified, Good Salary, Well Settled Groom, Religion, Caste No Bar. Contact: 98844 39700

DOCTOR

SMU PARENTS seeks Allopathic Doctor for daughter 30 yrs Slim,Fair MBBS,M.S., Mob: 8056198771

DOCTOR Girl Wrking in Govt hospital 5.1,born-July 1991, seeks groom from-medical field pref MD/MS, Mutharaiyar or BC/MBC caste.Ct:7401529319

DOCTOR MD Chennai, Mudaliar, October 1992 born ,157cm, moolam 4 paatham, seeking MD Doctors/PG engineers/IIM/Business families, age 29–35. 9444075410

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 32/165 from affluent elite family of doctors.Working in top hospital Chennai. Fair beautiful good mannered and cultured. Father doctor Kerala Nair. Engineer & Doctor grooms with MDMS MCh DM from good family background from Kerala and TamilNadu preferable. Ct: 9840050381/ 9840985383

Intercaste Doctor Parents seeks alliance for their only daughter 38yrs Divorcee, Doctor, Working, Associated Professor, affluent, fair, good looking. Only doctor preferred. Caste No Bar. Cont:9443167551

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MANAGER BHARANI 32 168cm WIDOW seeks Dr banking businessman from forward caste below 35 only 8300541899

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HINDU, MARATHA, fair looking girl 32/165 cm, father Retd., Gazetted Officer. Practising Lawyer in Bengaluru, LL.M. from National Law School Bengaluru seeks well educated and well placed bridegroom aged 32 to 35 years. Contact: 9448446119, 8972548648

MALAYALAM

MUSLIM WOMAN, M Phil in Clinical Psychology, MSc in Applied Psychology, 26/150cm, Thrissur District. Working currently in a private clinic at Calicut as Clinical Psychologist. Proposal invited from parents of well educated and progressive minded boy. Nearby districts are preferred. 7907856272

CALICUT BASED Thiyya girl, 26, Corporate Lawyer (Mumbai), LLB from National law school, parents Gazetted officers, Caste no bar. 9633046765.

THE HINDU
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MALAYALAM

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Inviting proposals from suitable Boys based in Australia for Nair Girl, 28 Yrs, Makairom, Height 165 cms, completed MBA from University of Melbourne and is now on Temporary Work Visa. Contact: 9995301609.

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NAIR GIRL @ Chennai 26/147 BE Chadayam/ Chevva Dosam Seeks Grooms Nair/Menon Family 9840944880/9447696424

✔ **PROPOSALS INVITED** forNAIR girl 27 atham chengannur Asst.Manager NABARD MVSc from boys below32 class1officers govt/psu transferable 9847754970/8592020649

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SUDHAJATHAKAM VISWAKARMA 25/150 Visakam B.Com MBA HCL Settled Coimbatore Seeks Graduate Groom 9566647768

Groom Wanted
Nair Girl with non transferable job working as an Asst. Prof, Central Govt Research Institute, Bangalore
Good looking, D O B 15.06.1992, Nakshatra- Mula, Height 164cm, 54kg. She has done her M S, Ph. D and Post Doc abroad. Seeking alliance from similarly qualified and professionally settled boys.
Contact : 75940 00872 94360 08333

Chennai based Nair Girl 29/157 Bharani, Suddhajathakam, Chartered Accountant Employed. Contact: 9790984036.

MBA/CA/ICWA

TAMIL– AD 32Yrs NIT/MBA(B'School) Manager HR @ SBI 14LPA + Qtrs, Allowances,etc (CTC23lpa)settled in Mumbai, seeks CNB – Hindu/Christian professionals PSB/Fin/SW/Govt. WA 9444228582.

SUITABLE ALLIANCE invited from eligible Groom for RC Girl 37, 5ft 1inch, MBA US educated, self-employed. Contact : +91 9745449227.

NRI

SEEKING– PROTESTANT Christian, well educated, kind and open-minded groom settled either in Canada or USA for my niece 29,165cms, studied and employed in Canada. She is from a reputed family in Kanyakumari district. Contact: kishoreonlinead@gmail.com and 7736866119

SEEKING ALLIANCE from Canada / US for Toronto based Naidu girl, 31, Product & Digital Strategy Manager, Caste no bar. E: alliance4weeks@gmail.com Whatsapp: +91 8148809055

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private). Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact 9841182514

PROPOSAL INVITED from well to do Nadar Christian family for a girl, fair, beautiful, well to do, well educated, God fearing aged 32 working in a foreign Embassy as a Senior Manager in Chennai Contract 9840129090.

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TAMIL

WELL ESTABLISHED Industrial family invites marriage proposal for their daughter, well educated (MBA) fair, beautiful looking after the family establishments. Bridegroom should be well educated from well to do family age within 35. Parents Contact. 95000 37037.

RC Nadar Girl ME 33/5.7 fair Software Engineer seeks BC/FC Groom. Contact / whatsApp 98868 88775

HINDU NADAR Bride 34/163 B.Tech. VP,BANK, Canada,Divorced within 10days Null&void PoosamKadagam. Seeks groom below 38yrs CNB preferably working in Canada,US. 9941302113.

HINDU NADAR Sister Girls, age 28 / 23, Ht 167/167cms, M.E. Asst Prof / B.E (I.T), Upper middle class. Seeks Upper middle class, equally qualified brother boys of age below 30 in job or business. Marriage both at a stage. Contact: 96265 15511

HINDU/SC.AD, SIMMAM/MAGAM(26/5'2") MCA, ITA @TCS, 6.40L/p.a. Same Caste Groom from Chennai 9840366908

WIDOW 34YRS B.Tech, well settled good looking with 6yr old child. Needs life partner who is progressive and broad minded. Age below 40yrs caste no bar 80727 50829 / 98848 95374

HINDU, VANIYA Chettiyar Widow (2 Female Child Age 10& 6) 34yrs,5.1 Feet, B.Com, Worked as Clerk in S. Rly, Chennai. Seeks any BC/MBC Groom from Chennai. 9444452870/9962997996

GAVARA, 30/159cm, M.E., Divorce without encumbrance, Parents-Central Govt. seeks qualified Groom from middle/ affluent family.Ct: 9489052752

MUDALIAR AVITTAM 26 155 B.E. fair Non–IT Bangalore 6.6 Lacs p.a. seeks from Chennai/Bangalore 9840143908

MUDALIAR: 26/160, Fair & Beautiful, B.E, MBA (USA), Data Analyst, MNC, USA, Elite Family, Seeks Groom Abroad/ India - 8925019776

VANIYA CHETTIYAR Aswini Mesam 28/163 MBBS, MD final year,Pulmonology.seeks Doctor/IPS/IAS. Sub cast no bar.Ct: sendhu94@gmail.com 8148895304

MUDALIAR 24 /170 Pooram BA PGDIB Ch seeks Affluent Business Profile in Chennai Ct Geetham 9884858014

HINDU NADAR BE/MBA 30/170cm 100000 Income Seeks Suitable Groom KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

ASST. PROF. Tuluva Vellal Mudaliar Good looking Girl 34 Uthirattathy, Meenam, Ph.D(Physics), Family Seeks Alliance from First and Unmarried Bachelor Bridegroom Aged 34-36 Yrs, Employed, Caste no bar. Contact: After 7 PM: 7550245659

HASTHAM 34/154 fair MCA Upper midl Clas Seeks Mudaliar / pillai professionally Qualified Groom 8220757159

VELLALA, Pooram 36yrs Ht:163cm Weight 62Kg, Scientist (PhD) Working in IISC Bangalore, Seeks Suitable groom. Contact: 9442485544

NADAR 29YRS, Uthradam, M.A., B.Ed., Remarriage seeks suitable Employed Groom preferably Hindu / Christian. Ct: 88256 51440

LOOKING FOR Bridegroom for the girl studying MS in US aged 23. End time message believer. Ct: 8939250457

27, FAIR, B.Tech, M. S. in US, working in Chennai, Affluent, seeks settledgroom CNB. 9489935653

MUDHALIYAR 25/M.B.B.S., Own schools& Colleges Chennai, (Caste no Bar) Richfamily seeks Groom: 7305491610

29 /F /RC/ Teacher/ Dusky/ Seeks Well Settled Groom Caste No Bar Ph 9962524239

NAIDU, RICH 23–02–90 fair slim 165 cm uthiradam 4 magaram MBBS Dr. TN Govt Chennai seeks Dr, Govt class A officer, Business Groom. Any Naidu or any FC/BC (Tamil/Telugu) 9841743266.

HINDU SC (AD) 33/156, ME , Thiruvonam, Working in Public Sector Bank in Chennai, Clerk 35K, Seeks Suitable Groom, Age 34 -37.Working in Govt or IT. Ct.9677510647 , 9790191307

SIMMAM MAHAM Fair SC Hindu Tamil 23Yrs 153cm MBA HDFC 2.5L PA Chennai.Seeks Educated Groom.Ct: 9962359900

HINDU MARAVAR(DEVAR) Never Married 09–01–86,165cm,60kg Working in USA IT Expt Seeks Below 39Yr,1st Mariage Groom Work in USA IT/Equal Profesional,Same Caste,SubCast 7845259152

HINDU Pillai 29/153 Pooram fair B.com MBA Coimbatore working MNC Seeks well eductd groom. 9843090433

MUDALIAR 25, BE, MBA, 162, Good Looking, well Settled Family Seeks Alliance Ct 8778514465 / 7200866346

HINDU VELLALAR Pillai / Mudaliar Barani Mesham 34/162 Govt. Doctor MD (Paed) seeks Suitable groom upto 38yrs Ct: 97912 16028

DOCTOR MD Chennai, Mudaliar, October 1992 born ,157cm, moolam 4 paatham, seeking MD Doctors/PG engineers/IIM/Business families, age 29–35. 9444075410

TAMIL

SC AD 26/M.Tech.,IT (P.hd) Associate Manager (Global Pvt.Ltd.) 79,000p.m. Seeks Bridegrooms. Ph:7397674481

VANNIAR PARENTS Near Tindivanam Only Daughter Slim Fair Tall 22/160 working in TCS seeks suitable Groom preferably IT Employed/ Doctor/ Business, age 24 to 26 from same Community Call: 9080363451

AD 27/162 BHMS Doctor Working seeks Tamil-cultured Well-Educated Settled Dr./Engr/Senior Officer in State/Central Govt./Bank, Groom with Age 30 & Below. 9444220872

AGE:23,HEIGHT:5'3",B.E., WORKING in an MNC in Chennai looking for a suitable Groom in SC Caste. Call:9444283352/044-22241557

GROOM FROM decent family req for fair girl,1993/ 156cm/Agamudiyar/kethai/MBA/ .Cont– 7358747790. Caste no bar.

HINDU SC –Adi Dravida, Female, Age– 29, BE MBA, Working in Accenture, Ph – 9444991091.

AFFLUENT MUDALIAR parents from Bangalore seek alliance for their only daughter 27yrs,175cm,Engineer (CS)from well settled grooms employed in civil services (IAS/IFS/IRS),Class I State or Central govt officers also can contact. Caste no bar.Please contact:9741589507

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR SC, CNB 38/1984 MA,PVT Bank,Ashwini, Good looking. Chennai,1st Marriage only 9500017884

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS, MD Final yr, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 33-36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. 9345855735

HINDU NADAR 27, MBBS, Bharani Mesham, Suddha Jathagam, Seeks Good looking Doctor. Ct:9965252880.

EliteMatrimony.com

Exclusive matchmaking service for the elite from Matrimony.com Group

ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 28, 168 cms, Entrepreneur, BE. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable well educated match from any Brahmin community. Contact: 6366448344

BRAHMIN, 32, 180 cms, Professional, Masters. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Professional. Looking for a suitable well educated match from Delhi or willing to relocate to Delhi. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR, 34, 178 cms, Entrepreneur, Masters in HR. Lives in Pondicherry. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like minded and well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448343

CASTE NO BAR, 32, 173 cms, Doctor, MD in General Medicine. Lives in Cuddalore. Father is Retired. Looking for a like minded and well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448343

VISHWAKARMA, 28, 180 cms, Engineer, ME. Lives in Canada. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448345

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN (INTER-RELIGION), 29, 163 cms, Professional, Double Masters. Lives in the USA. Father is a Businessman and Mother is a Professional. Family is an affluent. Parents live in Chennai. Looking for a compatible match from USA. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR, 28, 168 cms, Not Working, Masters. Lives in Pondicherry. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a suitable match from any caste in Chennai. Contact: 6366448344

KAMMA NAIDU, 32, 170 cms, IT Professional, Bachelors in Engineering. Lives in Nellore. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a like minded and well educated match from the same community. Contact: 6366448343

24 MANAI TELUGU CHETTIAR, 27, 166 cms, Senior Designer, BBB. Lives in Mysore. Father is a Businessman. Family is an affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible well educated & affluent match from any community. Contact: 6366448345

CASTE NO BAR, 28, 165 cms, Software Professional, Masters in Computer Science. Lives in Bangalore. Father is an affluent Businessman. Looking for a like minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448343

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 99629 76000

TAMIL

MUDALIAR: 25 /V.Fair & Beautiful, MBBS, MS, Doctor, Chennai, Having own Hospital, Elite Family, Seeks Groom – Doctor / Business – 8925019776

TAMIL VISWAKARMA / 39 / 150 Fair Thiruvonam / Rich / ME seeks suitable Same Caste Groom. 9486320982

PILLAI 26/165,VERY Fair, MBBS (MS) Govt Job,500000.PA,Affluent Family, Caste No Bar. 7299576644,7299576666

GAVARA NAIDU, Tamil speaking 29yrs /167cm /Fair, Visakham 3rd,BE PGDM, Dy. Mgr in reputed firm seeking Educated and settled groom India/Abroad. Subsect No Bar. Ct: 98420 02925 / 9788 73167

AD/PR 38/160 Widow, no child. ME, Lecturer at Trichy seeks edu groom, Hindu CNB Age upto 44 Ct:9751105111

HINDU NADAR 29, 168, BE/MS Australia Inc 30000/- Divorcee Seeks Suitable Groom KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

AGAMUDAYAR, 28 / Fair B.Tech,M.S Apple, works in Seattle - USA seeks USA Employed Groom.Ct:9444123278

WANTED GROOM
30 - 35yrs- Entrepreneurs Doctors professionals for Hindu fair good looking IRS bride (mutually divorced) 31/165cms from affluent family presently working as Deputy commissioner Customs/ Chennai
Ct: 94440 88855
sasisai16@gmail.com

HINDU SC PR Kongu 1984 MBBS DCH Doctor, working in Govt Hospital, seeks suitable groom. Ct:9443680973

Saiva Pillai Girl 24/170 Ayilyam Cbe, fair B.Tech SWE MNC B'Lore, 97910 92426 . senthilnathanb76@gmail.com

Mudaliar, 37, B.Com /MBA, Employed Smart seeks Employed / Business groom below 40 years. Ct:9940469633

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

KONGU VELLALAR Gounder 35yrs BE. MNC Bangalore, 13 LPA, UnMarried, seeks suitable Educated Bride from same caste.- 9886572314

MD (SS) doctor– Hindu–Tamil (30 yrs, 185 cm, v.fair, hastham) needs a v.fair, slim, tall, well qualified non–medico or MD–MS bride below 28 yrs from cultured upper caste families: Parents– 9342529547

Middleclass widower 63yrs, need life partner,without any encumbrance in Chennai.8105073838

UPPER MIDDLECLASS Widower 68,Setld Chennai No Children Seek Life Partner Caste Religion NoBar 9840106847

DIVORCEE

BRIDES WANTED
Iyer, Bharadwajam, Makam, middle class, divorcee, No child, 35/178, B.E., MBA. Clean habits, Canadian PR/Citizen, Manager in HCL, Canada. CAD 1,46,000 Groom in Chennai from 22nd Aug to 20th Sep 2022. Sect / Sub-Sect no bar
Ct: 94441-79125

DOCTOR

37 YRS Fair Urdu Sunni Muslim MS MCh Ortho Surgeon Chennai Divorced Seeking MD/MS Doctor Bride Ct: jafahmed33@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR 32 MD Dental lecturer own clinic seeks MD Medicine same caste Whatsapp 9884039215

DOCTOR

Bride Wanted
DOCTOR(MD) US CITIZEN
30/5'9" Merit Scholar Top US Univ
Only Son
Well-Estab Educated Liberal
Bengali-Hindu NRI Family
Seek Prof'l, Beautiful, Slim Match
Pref Below 27 yrs from Cultured
Educated Family with a Modern
Outlook and Upbringing
CASTE NO BAR
Bio+Pics
USMD92@gmail.com
WA +1-510-579-9350

MALAYALAM

HINDU NAIR, 36/169, Uthradam, Handsome, Govt.job, Divorcee without issue seeks beautiful Bride from (Nair/ Saiva Vellalar/ Vellalar) Poor Middle Class Family. Ct : 8807525679

TAMIL

BRAHMIN IYENGAR Srivathsam, Bharani 26 yrs BE MNC IT Chennai seeks unmarried Iyengar boy from Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad (5yrs age difference).Contact: 9840013155

TELUGU

Naidu Girl 30/158 with H1B Visa in USA from Educated Family Seek Alliance from Naidu Boy (Balija/ Kapu/ others) with PR/ H1B Visa Working in USA. Contact +91 8985039128.

YADAV MBBS GOVT MD AIIMS 29/168 beautiful Chennai seek Same caste qualified groom India/Abroad 9444608708

NAIDU (CNB) : 26/168, B.E, MBA, Fair & Beautiful, Business Family, Very Rich, Chennai – Seeks Groom Business / Engineer – 8939012419

MALAYALAM

✔ **CASTE NO** bar, 34/Magam/175cm/10LPA wrkg in Chennai, intercaste M–Nair, F–Mudaliar, owns 2BHK flat, seeks suitable match Ph: 7397477667

ENGINEER

HINDU NADAR Industrialist, Mumbai Based, B.Tech, 28,180cmseeks Engineer Bride from Good Family 9326750083

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

NRI

✔ **HINDU NADAR,** IT prof, USA, Mar-1986 born, 6'1", Magaram, Uthradam, Teetotaler, Divorced No encumbrance. Seeks bride from USA only, Caste no bar. +91 8939481508/+1 651 356 9254

SEEKING ALLIANCE for Hindu Vellalar boy in Canada/India, 32/ 6'3", Affluent, Supply chain manager. Caste no bar. Canadian PR. Wh: 9597049074

PUNJABI

PQM FOR teetotaler Jat Sikh boy, born 93, 6.3 feet, BTech ECE, working in IT company Mohali, pkg 14.6 LPA, having own kothi in Zirakpur. Only Sister working and married in USA. Parents retired from govt job. Tricity preferred but not limited. Email id: sohi.gurdeep27@gmail.com

MARATHI

BRAHAMIN Madhva, Doctor MD.,DM 32/165cm, mutual divorcee, fair seeks doctor, eng/any graduate 9444118686

MARATHI

MARATHI CHRISTIAN BRIDE WANTED
Alliance invited from a Marathi Christian Family for 28 yrs old Doctor (MS General Surgery) who is running a Super-Speciality Hospital in Tamilnadu.
Contact: 98423 42525

TAMIL

CSI NADAR 30/179, M.Arch(Architect) Project Manager in Chennai seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 9488522344.

SC AD DIVORCEE 31 BE Canara Bank Manager 90,000/month seeks suitable bride. 9962310155/205

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU 23/B.Tech famouKalyana Mahal (Chennai) Star HotelsElite family seeks groom. 9087604894

NAIDU BORN August 1990 165cm Ph.D Research scholar smart medium complexion seeks well educated & well settled groom in India from decent background born not earlier than 1987 (Below 35yrs) call 9790908109

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
KAMMA NAIDU
25, FAIR, B.ARCH, GOLD MEDALIST Bride sibling studying MS in Illinois University, USA. WELL SETTLED FAMILY SEEKS GROOM from Australia, Canada, US or local AGE 25-28, WELL SETTLED
98410 24677, 98405 36366

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar, Tirunelveli Dist well settled MS willing to live in USA 25yrs seeks bride from community, any professional. 9382286099

CSI CHRISTIAN NADAR GROUP 1, 27yrs/ 175, fair well settled family kanyakumari dist. Ct: 9443792181

ROMAN CATHOLIC Mudaliar 30 173cm BE, MNC 8Lak PA Chennai, Handsome, Seeks Qualified Girl. Ct: 6379397599

AGAMUDAIYAR MUDALIYAR, 44, Pooram, Simam, B.E., (E&C) 1 Lac Per Month, First Marriage, Own House, Seeks Suitable Alliance. Caste No Bar. No Brokers. Ct: 9600011225

IYENGAR 44/170 vadoolam, punarpoosam, working in MNC 15k/PM Seeks suitable bride Iyer/Iyengar 9940589443

CHETTIYAR, 24MANAI Telugu, MBA, 46, 5.4ft, young looking divorcee/ no kids, worked with all major Telecom companies as senior manager, now owns mid size internet solutions Pvt Ltd. company at Madurai with TRAI's Cat–C license, 30lacs p.a., own house, seeks bride below 42, unmarried, divorcee,widow, Caste no bar, Mob: 6379257390

HINDU DEVENDIRA kula vellalar M.E., 28/167 Asst. Engg. in PWD seeks suitable bride8248195168, 8667380725

MUDALIAR: 29/178, Handsome, B.E. MS (USA), Process Eng, MNC, USA, 100000$ PA, Affluent Family, Seeks Bride Abroad / India – 7305810258

IYER BOY, Bharadwaja Gothram, star Kettai, 32, 6.1 Ft, M.Tech, Puducherry Govt UDC, 9 lacs per annum, own house, Flat, Preference Graduate girl, Employment not must, Subsect no bar. No expectations Ct: 9443887454, 9789445577

TAMIL, 56 yrs Healthy, well settled, officers, Coimbatore Seeks independent well settled broadmaindedLady above 42 as soulmate & companion ct: 7397087032 mducbe18@gmail.com

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL, MS USA, 30 Years 186 cm. Currently working in Germany as a Senior Logistics Manager. Employed prior in U.S.A for four years and two years in Dubai. Well Settled Family. Star Hastham & Backward Community. Seeks well Educated, Hindu Bride (Caste No Bar) for their only Son. Mobile 9840041041

MUDALIAR,CHENNAI B.E Fair 1985 Well Settled, Any Degree Emp / Un-Employ Decent Family. Ct: 8610518808

ARIYA VAISHYAR, Age 40/ 178cm, work MNC @ Chennai, Decent salary, CNB, No Expectation. Ct: 7567993556

HINDU NADAR, remarriage, 30, B.E, PGDM, 6.2 ,wheatish brown, business man, chennai, expecting good looking girl with traditional family values within 29 years rich family, culture, same caste & religion. 9444061899.

MUDALIAR HINDU Groom, First Marriage, age 44, HW Engineer, BE – ECE, B'lore. 9886493369/9740900969

DKV 36/160 BE SWE CTC 18 Pooradam Dhanush wellsettled seeks bride SWE/Engineering moves to Germany in 2 months Caste Nobar Ct 94433 66333

REDDY 36Y Veg B.Tech IT PVT Job seeks good family Girl Caste No Bar Contact: 9629476232

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 35/180 M.S(UK)Design Engineer employed @ Chengalpet seeks suitable Bride same community.9486291986, 9442910057.

VANNIYAR, 35/168CM, BE, 1.25L, Visagam 4th, seeks Suitable Alliance same Caste Ct: 94434 01831

PILLAI 34 Swati/Thulam Govt officer seeks bride CNB good character call 9786113003

DKV 31 BE SWE 170cm Divorcee No issue, No Encumbrance Hindu/ Christian Suitable Bride. Ct: 9444807156

PARTNER FOR myself, 35, 5ft 11inch, B.E. (College Of Engineering Guindy), IT professional in Chennai. Interfaith parenting (Father is Hindu and Mother is Christian). I have no religious beliefs. Caste no bar. I write freelance on movies as a hobby. My Contact 9003213197, Contact of Parents 9600174846

TELUGU

BRAHMIN– 28Y /158cm, fair, IIT, IIFT–MBA,Bharadwaj ghotram.Seeks well qualified & well settled Brahmin. Ph.9849113415

URDU

SMU PARENTS Seeks Alliance PG Doctor, CA Groom for Daughter 27, Slim, Fair MS, Ophthal Working 9444024991

MBBS 25 / 175 / VFair / slim / religious family seeks from Chennai MBBS & above below 28 yrs Mob: 9342928472.

SM Parents seeks MCH MS IIM IIT for Daughter 29 5'3" MBBS MS. Email: mkshariffs@gmail.com

MUSLIM Urdu, 27yrs BE, LLM seeks Master degree, well Emplyd in TN, age 28-31, Height 5.8 - 6ft. Ct:9940641555

TAMIL

VELLALAR EGGETARIAN 29/175 Avittam, Maharam PhD canada working as PDF LundUniversity Sweden seeks Bride abroad/ to settled abroad 9444425506

HINDU SC AD 33/172 Ph.D Chemistry , CSIR RA seeks suitable Bride (28–31) empld. Ct:9994153134, 9840490934

BALIJA NAIDU 46/170 BCom CA MBA Remarriage Ch seeks Educated Bride CNB Chennai only Ct:geetham 9884858014

Saiva Pillai 33 Moolam 170 MCA MNC Blore Good Family background Sub caste No bar 9443154173 Email : majorelangovan@gmail.com

CASTE NO Bar. 36, Magaram Rasi, Avittam,MBA Working U.K Divorcee No issue- Intercaste Parents- Hindu Seeks well educated/ Medical Professional Bride from Tamilnadu. 6380826640

HINDU NADAR (29) 175cm BE/MBA Income 2,00,000/–Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

VANIYA CHETTIAR Only Sep93 Male BE MBA (LIBA) 12L P/A Assoc Manager Standard Chartered Chennai:6369167441

BOY Working in Canada Seeks Alliance from a family of Naidu kavarai, Height 171 cm, M.Tech, Email: gcs14111963@gmail.com Contact: 9003701719

SOZHIA VELLALAR,32/180/BE,CTS chennai,14LPA,well settled,unmarried seeks suitable educated bride from the same caste.ct- 9442570340,9487635399

HINDU AGAMUDAIYAR 5.6 ht/34yrs B.E, (Divorced) MD in Reputed Family Business with a good net worth. Seeks suitable alliance. Caste no bar. Call/Whatsap: 9444385393, 9444929511

SAIVAPILLAI 33/173 Hastham MS Engg Software Engineer in Major MNC Bangalore seeks professionally qualified Bride 8903293576 / 9840299986

TAMIL VISWAKARMA 39/170 Fair Thiruvonam Rich/ CA/ MNC/ 70,000 seeks same Caste Bride 9486320982

PILLAI 31/179,V. Handsome, MBBS, MD, Govt Job,10Lac.PA, Affluent Fmly,Caste No Bar. 7299576644, 7299576666

SUITABLE MATCH for Tamil Seer Karuneegar Boy 46/172 cms/B.Arch, MBSc (Student)/Toronto, Canada. Educated Brides preferably from Veg community Contact 6383401504.

SAIVA PILLAI 26/166, Chithirai, B Tech SW Engineer, Chennai, only son, Seeks educated bride. 9345548703

HINDU MARUTHUVAR, B.E. 27, Kiruthigai, Rishabam Handsome Boy, Rs. 14Lakhs PA Seeks suitable Bride from Same Community.WhatsApp No.80661 29502

47 AGE Boy. Bride Wanted. Contact: 9940075698

✔ **IYER Vadama** Garga Ayilyam-2 1973 Sep 168cm S/w USA ,boy cmng June, seeks bride.9444915698,email: rukmani46@yahoo.com

BRAHMIN IYER 33 B.E (Mech) working in Mumbai, drawing 14 Lakhs per annum, Pooram 1st Padam (as per Vakia Panjangam Magham 4th padam) Kaundinya Gothram Father Brahacharanam Mother Vadama only Son Affluent Family, Own House Seeks Decent Employed Girl.Subsect No Bar. 9445005392 /9444865392

IYER, VADAMAL, Garga, Mrigasheersham, DOB: 29.06.1992, 178 cm, Fair,Working in L&T Infotech as a Specialist, 16 Lakhs/Annum, in Chennai. Only son of aleading medical practitioner. Affluent family. Expectation: Subsect No Bar. Looking fora graduate Iyer girl. Employment not a must. Contact: 9442438778

IYER, 41 Years, Self employed Chartered Accountant earns 25lakhs per year. Right leg slightly short. He can walk and drive vehicle normally. Need Suitable Bride. Call 9994934568

TAMIL

TAMIL BRAHMIN, 36, B.Com, MBA, EPGDM, Working as Deputy Manager in a Pvt. Firm, Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride in Same Community. Ph: 98846 88390 / 98404 03339

Wanted Any Brahmin Girl Based in Hyderabad/ Chennai, for Kapi Gothram, Avittam Nakshatram Boy. DOB 11/05/1977. Horoscope Matching optional Contact: 9963426488.

BRAHACHARNAM HARITHAM Uthiradam April 1994 /170cm CA good salary Equity Research Analyst. Only Professionals apply: yojanasala_@hotmail.com

BRIDE WANTED
IYER BRAHACHARANAM
Bharadwajam Mirugasheerisham (Midhunam) 24.03.1988, 162 Cms. Fair B.E., MBA., Manager, Leading Company in Coimbatore Rs.1 Lakh/pm.
Expectation – Any Degree Girl from Decent Brahmin Family (Sect/ Sub-Sect No Bar) Job Not Important, No other Expectations
94444 51066
86082 62057

BRIDE WANTED
Tamil Iyer family based in Dubai seeks alliance for their Son - 28, 5'11, with a H1B visa, working in Austin,Texas. Looking for a beautiful & well qualified bride from a Iyer / Iyengar / Smartha / Madhwa working / Studying in the US / Willing to study and eventually work in the US preferred.
Email: axisramesh@gmail.com
✆ 00971561144046

NAIDU 31/164cm ME Asst. Professor Chennai-Divorcee seeks suitable Bride Unmarried/ Divorcee - no issue- Naidu/ Mudaliar/ Pillai/ Reddiyar/ Chettiar pref Contact 94456 89306 / 94430 52596

TELUGU

BALIJA 37/170 Moolam B.Com business 50K/pm own house, Chennai seeks educated good family bride 9840696452

KAPU BOY, 6 feet 1 inch 28 yrs, B.Tech from IIT Kanpur,Group A gazetted officer in Govt of India seeks suitable alliance Contact: +91 9453045661

KAMMA 46 177Cm, BE Divorce, Private Employee, Expected Divorce, widow Issue Less,Contact: 9790271078

NAIDU 27/180, B.Tech MS, Pooratathi, working as Research Engineer in Sweden, contact 9566682220

TELUGU BRAHMIN 6000 NIYOGI Koundiya–34 yrs, 172 cms BE– Asst Mgr (5.5 LPA) Seeks suitable bride Subsect No Bar. Ct: 9620999580

URDU

37 YRS Fair Urdu Sunni Muslim MS MCh Ortho Surgeon Chennai Divorced Seeking MD/MS Doctor Bride Ct: jafahmed33@gmail.com

SUNNI MUSLIM parents invite alliance for their son MBBS, MD (General Medicine), DM (Cardiology), presently working as Associate Cardiologist in a reputed hospital, Bangalore. Looking for a beautiful girl from a respectable family who has completed / in final year MD / MS in clinical subjects. Contact & whatsApp : 9845614231

SMU 28/179 ME handsome PG Engineer MNC, Europe seeks PG Medical/ Engineer bride from Reputed Religious good family Mail: sshafi61@gmail.com

MARRIAGE BUREAU

ALL CASTE Matrimony Service in Chennai. Contact: 9342530447

BUSINESS OFFERS

BUSINESS

20000 SQ.FT shell for Bar and Restaurant on the beach ECR Chennai with a spectacular view of the sea available for joint venture. Contact: 9840035935/ 9884027500/ 9841689842

WE PROVIDE Best Investment Platform which will Generate Monthly Attractive Earnings. Ct: 6381095123

FINANCE

LOANS OF all types, NPA takeover quick process,low interest- 7305912765

FINANCE

IMMDT FINANCE Against Properties, Projects, Business,Cheque. 8148324664

ALL LOANS: Property Mortgage, Business, Secured Unsecured, Home Loan, Take over.Ct 7358690934, 8122542582

GENERAL

WATER PROOFING

WE-FIX: LEAKING Roof, Tank, Sump, Bathroom, Skylight, House Painting, Tiling, Carpentry, Epoxy, Civil Works. 9448572697

As monsoon gains vigour, storage in reservoirs inches up fast

Quantum of water stored in dams across the State is higher than what it was last year; major dams in Cauvery basin attain 89% of cumulative gross storage capacity

R. KRISHNA KUMAR
MYSURU

Heavy rains in different parts of the State, following revival of southwest monsoon, has increased the inflow to several reservoirs in both the Cauvery and the Krishna basins.

Major dams in the Cauvery basin are fast nearing the full reservoir level (FRL) having attained 89% of their cumulative gross storage capacity.

With prediction of high rainfall for the next 4-5 days, yellow alert has been sounded in most of northern Karnataka. As per IMD forecast, heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places over seven districts namely Belagavi, Bidar, Dharwad, Haveri, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, and Vijayapura.

In numbers

Major reservoirs	Gross Storage	Storage on July 9	Inflow
KRS	49.45 tmcft	44.87 tmcft	34,304 cusecs
Kabini	19.52 tmcft	17.39 tmcft	14,481 cusecs
Hemavati	37.1 tmcft	32.56 tmcft	17,641 cusecs
Harangi	8.5 tmcft	6.99 tmcft	9,844 cusecs
Bhadra	71.54 tmcft	51.48 tmcft	28,016 cusecs
Tungabhadra	100.86 tmcft	72.95 tmcft	95,484 cusecs
Ghataprabha	51 tmcft	10.74 tmcft	20,407 cusecs
Malaprabha	37.73 tmcft	12.25 tmcft	4,256 cusecs
Almatti	123.08 tmcft	70.58 tmcft	78,390 cusecs
Narayanapur	33.31 tmcft	28.08 tmcft	1,586 cusecs

SOURCE:KSNDMC

Workers being transported to their destination in the rain at Kottigehara in Chikkamagaluru district on Saturday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

In Cauvery basin

Against the cumulative gross storage capacity of 114.87 tmcft of water across KRS, Hemavati, Kabini and Harangi, the actual storage was 101.81 tmcft as on Saturday. This is in contrast to 51.15 tmcft of water that was available across the four dams on the same day last year, according to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC).

The inflow into the KRS dam across the Cauvery was at the rate of 34,304 cusecs, while the inflow into Hemavati near Gorur in Hassan district was at the rate of 17,641 cusecs. The water level at the KRS dam was 121.93 feet against the full reservoir level of 124.80 feet. The water level at the Kabini reservoir in H.D. Kote in Mysuru district was 2,280 feet against the FRL of 2,284 feet.

The inflow into the rivers continues to be high due to heavy rains in the catchment areas of rivers Cauvery, Krishna, Tungabhadra and flood warnings have been issued to people living in the downstream of the KRS and Kabini in view of the impending increase in the outflow from the dams.

Krishna basin

The inflow into the Krishna and its tributaries continued to be at the rate of more than 75,000 cusecs and 11 bridge-cum-barrages in Chikkodi-Nippani region remained submerged. The cumulative water storage across major dams in the Krishna basin as on Saturday was almost 60% of the gross storage capacity. The Bhadra dam has a gross capacity of 71.54 tmcft against which the storage had reached 51.48 tmcft, which is almost 72% of the installed capacity. The inflow into the reservoir was at the rate of 28,016 cusecs on Saturday.

Tungabhadra dam has an installed capacity to store 100.86 tmcft against which the live storage in the reservoir was 72.95 tmcft and the inflow was at the rate of 95,484 cusecs.

The gross storage capacity of the Almatti dam is 123.08 tmcft against which the storage as on Saturday was 70.58 tmcft and the rate of inflow was 78,930 cusecs, according to KSNDMC.

The Narayanapura dam – or Basava Sagar Reservoir – has a gross storage capacity of 33.31 tmcft against which the live storage on Saturday was 26.77 tmcft, according to the KSNDMC.

Only exceptions

It is only the Ghataprabha and Malaprabha dams that have live storage below the last year's quantum. Water levels in Renuka Sagar dam across the Malaprabha river was just 12.25 tmcft against 37.31 tmcft. Inflow was 4,256 cusecs and outflow was 194 cusecs.

The cumulative gross storage capacity of major dams in the Krishna basin is 417.52 tmcft against which the available storage was 246.08 tmcft. The quantum of water available on the same day last year was 236.34 tmcft.

(With inputs from Girish Pattanashetti in Hubballi)

BJP will focus on Old Mysore region and bag 150 seats: Kateel

'We will win more seats in Hassan, Mandya, Mysuru districts'

BJP State office-bearers attending a meeting in Hassan on Saturday. • PRAKASH HASSAN

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

Bharatiya Janata Party State president Nalin Kumar Kateel has said his party was working out to win more than 150 seats in the next Assembly polls, by focusing on all regions, including Old Mysore.

Speaking to presspersons in Hassan on Saturday, Mr. Kateel said the party was taking steps to strengthen its base in Old Mysore districts. "We will win more seats in Hassan, Mandya, Mysuru districts in the coming elections," he said.

The present situation was such that supporters of the Congress and JD(S) parties could favour the BJP, he claimed.

"Many legislators and other elected representatives in other parties are willing to join the BJP. Those people willing to join the party accepting our ideology and Narendra Modi's leadership are welcome," he said.

Commenting on the 75th birthday of Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah being celebrated in a big way next month, Mr. Kateel said Mr. Siddaramaiah was organising the event to prove his strength in the party. "The event has already left KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar disappointed. The party hig-command is trying hard to patch the gap between the two leaders," he said.

Mr. Kateel was in Hassan to attend the party's State office-bearers' meeting. Hundreds of party leaders from across the State are attending the two-day meeting. Excise Minister K. Gopalaiah, party's Hassan district president H.K. Suresh, Hassan MLA Preetham J. Gowda, and organising general secretary Arun Kumar attended the inaugural ceremony of the meeting.

Draft rules for two of four labour codes finalised

State came out with rules based on skeletal draft by Centre, amidst concerns raised by labour unions

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

Amidst misgivings by trade unions and objection, the Karnataka government has finalised the draft rules for two of the four labour codes. Draft rules for the other two codes is expected to be finalised within a month.

The Centre enacted and notified the Wage Code in November 2019, and it enacted and notified the Code on Industrial Relations, 2020, Code on Social Security, 2020, and Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Condition, 2020, in September 2020. The four labour codes that will subsume 29 labour legislations in the country will come into effect once the Union government announces the commencement date.

What the four labour codes are about

- **On wages — Karnataka Rules, 2021**
  Deals with minimum wages, working hours, night shift, payment of dues and claims, recovery of advances, inquiry and formation of State Advisory Board. Final draft rules are ready to be gazetted after receiving objections.
- **On industrial relations — Karnataka Rules, 2021**
  Covers trade unions, negotiations, bipartite forums, industrial standing orders, disputes and arbitration, lockouts and layoffs, retrenchment, closure and workers' re-skilling fund. Final draft rules are ready to be gazetted after receiving objections.
- **On social security — Karnataka Draft Rules, 2021**
  Deals with gratuity, maternity benefits, employee compensation, women employees, inspection powers. It also covers Karnataka Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board and Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board. Draft notified on April 4, 2022, the Labour Department is currently vetting objections.
- **On occupational safety, health and working condition — Karnataka Draft Rules, 2021**
  Covers establishment of factories, a host of employment in hazardous industries, duties of employers and employees, notification of accidents, working hours, paid leave, employment and safety of women, contract labour, inter-State migrant workers.Draft notified on April 4, 2022, the Labour Department is currently vetting objections.

Reasons for deferment

While earlier commencement dates have been fixed and then deferred, July 1 this year had been fixed as the latest commencement date for implementation of labour codes, resulting in a number of speculative messages on social media. It is now indefinitely deferred as many States are not ready with or have refused to form the draft rules to implement them. Workers resistance has also contributed to the delay.

The Labour Department in Karnataka has completed the process of finalising the draft rules for Code on Wages and Industrial Relations and is expected to finalise the other two soon. Once finalised, they are placed before the Cabinet for approval and then laid before the legislature. Since labour is in concurrent list, draft rules are to be formulated both by the Centre and State.

"Karnataka will be ready with draft rules within a month to implement all four labour codes when the Centre announces the commencement date," Labour Secretary Manoj Jain told *The Hindu*. "The State has formed rules based on the skeletal draft by the Centre."

Labour Department sources said that the draft rules have attracted a large number of objections and suggestions, which are being vetted now by Additional Labour Commissioner G. Manjunath. "Wherever suggestions or objections are valid, they have been incorporated in the final draft. Many are beyond our scope and hence could not be considered."

Unions' concerns

However, trade unions say that workers' interests have been seriously compromised in the labour reforms.

"Though the Centre has enacted the four labour codes, it is yet to notify the Central rules. We told the State government not to come up with the draft till then. Why is the State government in a hurry?" asked Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU) national secretary K.N. Umesh. "In social security code, there is no provision for unorganised workers, who constitute 90% of the workforce. There is no job security, and the rights to livelihood, right to organise, and right to strike have been compromised," he said.

Said AITUC State secretary M. Satyananda: "The code has led to dilution of norms for fixing minimum wage and the right to strike has been severely curtailed with heavy penalties. There is a serious assault on the trade unions in the country." He added, "The codes severely compromise safety in workplaces because inspection has been done away with and replaced with a facilitation method. Surprise inspection no longer happens."

Award for doctors

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A book written by Shantala, gynaecologist, called '3019 A.D.', and H.S. Anupama's work 'Covid Doctor Diary' has been selected for the Dr. H. Girijamma Award. The award carrying a prize money of ₹20,000 and a citation will be presented at an event organised by Dr. H. Girjamma Sneha Balaga, on July 23 at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath. Dr. Girijamma was a noted author and gynaecologist, who died last year of cardiac arrest.

Spectacular view

Travellers enjoying a view of the Western Ghats at the Bisle viewpoint in Sakleshpur taluk. • K. MURALI KUMAR

FROM PAGE ONE

350 Amarnath yatris from State stranded

Help at hand

- **NDRF:** 11-23438252; 011-23438253
- **Kashmir divisional helpline:** 0914-2496240
- **Temple board helpline:** 0194-2313149
- **Karnataka State Emergency Operations Centre:** 080-1070; 22340676

The helplines are operational 24/7

"As of now, there are details of around 370 yatris in groups hailing from Karnataka spread out in various locations of the yatra route. The yatris are safe and a few are stranded due to inclement weather, and they will be moving out when the weather clears," said Manoj Rajan, Commissioner, KSDMA.

"The details of yatris received at SEOC have been shared with NDRF Control Room and Integrated Command and Control Centre under Divisional Commissioner's Office, Kashmir, and Amarnath Shrine Board to provide any assistance on priority. The J&K government and NDRF have opened relief centres for the stranded pilgrims and arrangements have been made to safely evacuate them to safer locations," he added. He further said there had been no casualties or injuries to pilgrims hailing from Karnataka so far. Most of the pligrims are natives of Ramanagaram, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Chickballapur, Mysuru, Mandya, Shivamogga, Bagalkot, Dakshina Kannada, and Kolar districts.

Steps taken: CM

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the State government had taken all possible measures to rescue pilgrims from the State who have been stranded.

"Kannadigas from the State who are on Amarnath Yatra are safe. There is no report of any untoward incidents related to Kannadigas. We are in contact with the J&K government and the Union government," he said.

KSRTC employees' league: Kodihalli Chandrashekar removed from honorary president's post

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Employees' League has ousted Kodihalli Chandrashekar from its honorary president's post.

In a press release on Saturday, the employees' league stated that office-bearers had taken a decision to remove Mr. Chandrashekar from the post and barred him from attending any of the league's activities in future.

Chandrashekar R., president of the league, told *The Hindu* that Mr. Kodihalli Chandrashekar was facing accusation of dealings following a sting by a television channel and that is the reason for his removal.

In April 2021, under the leadership of Mr. Kodihalli Chandrashekar, the league went on a 15-day bus strike across the State demanding the State government to give better pay for Road Transport Corporation (RTC) employees, among other demands. Hundreds of the employees of the corporations were dismissed or suspended from service for taking part in the strike by the management of RTCs.

Mega rally

The release states that the league will hold a mega rally of RTC employees in Davangere on July 15. The league has demanded the State government to give pay packages to the employees on a par with the government employees and withdraw dismissal cases against employees for taking part in the strike.

Other demands include withdrawal of police complaints filed during strike against employees and their families and conducting elections to employee unions.

With amended bylaws, KSP plans to touch one crore membership

It aims to start units at ward levels

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

Kannada Sahitya Parishat is targeting one crore members over the next five years and has decided to give life-term free membership to Kannadiga soldiers, those serving in paramilitary forces, ex-servicemen and persons with disability.

Recently, the State government gave approval to the amendments made to KSP's bylaw, which were based on the recommendation of the committee headed by the retired High court Judge Arali Nagaraju.

Major amendments

Among major amendments, KSP has reduced the membership charge from ₹1,000 to ₹250 and will issue a smart card to the members. They are developing a separate mobile app for the online registration for membership.

While minimum of primary education (till Class VII) is required for membership, this condition will be waived for folk dance, music, theatre, cinema, and Yakshagana artistes, besides labourers, farmers and others one "who are working for the sake of Kannadanadu."

They will provide financial aid for the postgraduate students of economically backward communities in any university for those who are studying Kannada literature and related subjects. They will also provide executive committee membership to people from backward and minority communities.

> **My aim is to make KSP accessible to common people. So, we have made many reforms in the bylaw and provided opportunities to the common people.**
> MAHESH JOSHI
> President of KSP

KSP is planning to establish its wings in the rural areas and start the hobli units across the State. Ward units will be established in Bengaluru Urban district. To spread its influence across the globe, they will start an overseas unit also.

Mahesh Joshi, president of KSP, told to *The Hindu*, "My aim is to make KSP accessible to common people. So, we have made many reforms in the bylaw and provided opportunities to the common people. We are planning to achieve a one crore membership. To achieve this, we are launching a special mobile app. Chief Minister will launch the app and KSP website soon."

Jagan elected lifetime president of YSRCP

Party has created a bedrock on which the State's economic, social and political transformation will take place, says A.P. CM

STAFF REPORTER
GUNTUR

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and national president of YSR Congress Party, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, has been unanimously elected lifetime president of the YSR Congress Party.

Announcing this at the plenary, which concluded here on Saturday, party national general secretary V. Vijaya Sai Reddy said 22 sets of nominations were filed on Friday, and since there was no other nomination, the party unanimously elected Mr. Jagan lifetime president.

Mr. Jagan was greeted by Ministers, MLAs and MLCs and senior leaders soon after the announcement. Ratification of the amendment to Part I of Article I of the party constitution and recognising the party as YSRCP were among the major resolutions adopted at the plenary.

The party also resolved to amend Article 8 and 9 of its Constitution and unanimously elect Mr. Jagan as lifetime president of the party.

Mr. Jagan Reddy thanked the party supporters for reposing faith in him for over a decade. "I am seeing an army of loyal men and women who have endured many difficulties for over a decade. I salute the party supporters with all my heart and I promise to take care of you. We have set a new trend and brought about a revolution in economic, social and political sphere and in education, health and women empowerment," said Mr. Jagan.

Giving a clarion call for the party cadre to gear up for the coming general elections, YSRCP national president and Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has said that the party has created a bedrock on which the State's economic, social and political transformation would take place.

Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy with his mother Y.S. Vijayamma during the YSRCP plenary held opposite Acharya Nagarjuna University in Guntur district on Saturday. • K.V.S. GIRI

Sounds poll bugle

"I am happy to say that we have created a sound foundation on which remarkable transformation has taken place in education, health and agricultural sector in three years. I urge you to lead the the battle against the evil conglomerate of Opposition parties and their friendly media, like Arjuna in the Mahabharata, and tell every person in the State of the good things done by our government, our welfare schemes, our innovative reforms in education, health and agriculture and our mission to ensure transformational changes in social, economic and political landscape," said Mr. Jagan at the end of two-day plenary session.

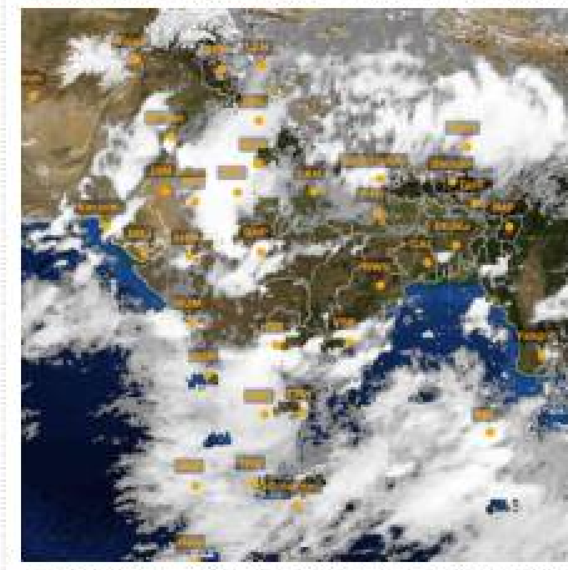
Massive crowds thronged the venue in between Guntur and Vijayawada. The national highway between Guntur and Vijayawada was choc-a-block as thousands came from distant places across the State.

Reminiscing the three-year YSRCP government rule, Mr. Jagan said that 95% of the poll promises made in the manifesto were fulfilled.

He recalled the journey of strengthening YSRCP, thanked the party workers for their support over the years, and assured them that he would continue to take their responsibility in the coming days as well.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18:00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at a few/isolated places over Gujarat, Saurashtra & Kutch, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Assam, Odisha, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	35.1	26.7
Ahmedabad	85	33.0	25.2
Aizawl	–	28.8	21.4
Allahabad	–	39.0	30.2
Bengaluru	7.3	25.4	19.8
Bhopal	11.8	31.9	23.1
Bhubaneswar	0.8	33.3	25.4
Chandigarh	–	31.7	29.3
Chennai	–	32.9	27.8
Coimbatore	5	28.0	21.8
Dehradun	38	26.5	23.4
Gangtok	–	24.2	17.3
Goa	85	28.0	23.2
Guwahati	–	36.4	24.6
Hubballi	–	24.0	21.0
Hyderabad	42	24.0	21.0
Imphal	3	31.7	23.1
Jaipur	4	35.4	27.1
Kochi	10	26.8	23.4
Kohima	–	27.4	16.6
Kolkata	16	33.5	27.7

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Kozhikode	25	25.4	23.1
Kurnool	4	27.0	23.0
Lucknow	–	36.2	30.6
Madurai	–	35.7	27.6
Mangaluru	83.8	25.9	22.6
Mumbai	5	29.0	25.8
Mysuru	8	27.6	19.0
New Delhi	–	35.1	30.5
Patna	–	37.0	28.2
Port Blair	16	28.5	24.6
Puducherry	–	33.6	26.9
Pune	50.8	24.8	21.1
Raipur	23.4	33.5	24.5
Ranchi	2	31.6	23.5
Shillong	0.5	25.6	17.6
Shimla	14	22.2	18.2
Srinagar	2	27.8	20.0
Thiruvananthapuram	3	30.3	23.3
Tiruchi	–	32.7	26.0
Vijayawada	33	27.8	24.4
Visakhapatnam	46	30.8	25.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	44	9	69	48	66	Good
Bengaluru	22	33	84	–	95	Good
Chennai	4	–	78	38	94	Good
Delhi	23	33	74	119	131	Moderate
Hyderabad	17	5	38	55	58	Good
Kolkata	9	24	27	20	62	Good
Lucknow	9	71	47	84	103	Moderate
Mumbai	66	25	41	24	45	Good
Pune	–	15	45	30	30	Good
Visakhapatnam	16	40	24	35	47	Good

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab, recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 178 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Water level rising in rivers in Kerala

NDRF teams are deployed in Idukki, Kozhikode, and Wayanad districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The heavy spell of rain lashing Kerala for the past one week is likely to continue for the next four days under the combined influence of an offshore trough and a low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal.

In view of the rain spell, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams have been deployed in Idukki, Kozhikode, and Wayanad districts.

A red alert has been issued in the Lower Periyar, Kallarkutty, and Kuttiyadi reservoirs, while an orange alert has been declared in the Poringalkuthu reservoir.

According to an advisory forecast of the Central Water Commission, water level in the Kadalundi (Malappuram), Bharatapuzha (Palakkad), Vamanapuram and Karamana (Thiruvananthapuram), Kallada (Kollam), and Thodupuzha (Idukki) rivers is rising.

Busy bees: Workers at the upcoming vegetable market in Kozhikode engaged in construction despite rain. • K. RAGESH

According to the India Meteorological Department, heavy rain is likely to continue till Tuesday under the influence of a low-pressure area over Odisha and neighbourhood.

Peringome in Kannur recorded the highest rainfall of 15 cm during the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday, followed by Padannakkad in Kasaragod with 13 cm, Kudulu 12, Aralam 12, Hosdurg 11, Chemberi 11, Irikkur 11, Taliparamba 11, Kakkayam 11, and Vellarikkundu 10.

Three relief camps, two in Alappuzha and one in Thrissur, are operational in the State, accommodating 63.

The rain deficit in Kerala was wiped out with heavy rain in the past one week.

The State, which witnessed 48% deficient rain in June, has now recorded normal rainfall of 1,718.8 mm.

As per the India Meteorological Department, a departure of plus/minus 19% is normal rainfall.

Rain throws life out of gear in Telangana

Many areas of State inundated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Incessant rain throughout the day has thrown life out of gear at most of the places across Telangana on Saturday with rainwater inundating low-lying areas, particularly in northern part of the State.

Several streams and rivulets are in the spate although main river courses of the Krishna and the Godavari are yet to witness any major flood.

According to reports reaching here several remote villages in the combined Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Warangal and Khammam districts were cut off from other parts as the road connectivity was damaged in the heavy rains for the last couple of days. Control rooms were set up in all the rain-hit districts to take up relief and rehabilitation work. Disaster management teams have also been kept on stand-by to attend to emergency situations.

According to Telangana State Development Society data, Mudhole in Nirmal district recorded highest rainfall of 203.5 mm during the day, from 8.30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Other places where over 100 mm rain was recorded during the day are: Bhainsa (Nirmal-168.55 mm), Macherla (161 mm), Magidi (156 mm), Jakranpally and Madanpalli (155 mm each), Alur (152.3 mm) all in Nizamabad.

Eatala vows to defeat KCR on his home turf

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

BJP MLA Eatala Rajender has said that he will contest against Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao from the Gajwel constituency in the Assembly election.

He said in an informal chat with mediapersons in Hyderabad on Saturday that he had spoken his mind on this earlier also and was reaffirming his position again now. "I am working on defeating Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao seriously from now." There was a need to defeat him at any cost, Mr. Rajender added. Mr. Rajender recalled that he had joined the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) two decades ago at Gajwel. And it was his firm resolve to inflict a defeat on Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao at the same place.

A repeat of West Bengal scenario was on cards in Telangana, he said and likened his possible victory over Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao to that of the loss of Mamata Banerjee at the hands of her erstwhile colleague in Trinamool Congress Suvendhu Adhikari in the last Assembly elections in that State. Mr. Suvendu had also quit the ruling party like him to join the BJP and defeat the Trinamool supremo. Mr. Rajender said there was a steep decline in the popularity of Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao. He had suffered an irreparable damage in public view. The public was detached from him. Mr. Rao was about to the outwitted by his rivals. He advised election strategist Prashant Kishore to evaluate the chances of Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao in the next elections instead of surveying other TRS leaders.

Govt of Karnataka

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI

No:EE/PWD/KD/TS-4/Tender Notification/2022-23/2044 Date: 01.07.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work : Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender for the 5 works under KKRDB Micro Head of account through e-portal Indent No. 147701, 152643, 152480, 152477 and 152470, 2) Estimated Cost : Min Rs, 71.36 Lakhs, Max. Rs, 178.40 Lakhs, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class I, and Class II, 4) Tender fees and EMD details: Application fees as per e-procurement EMD Min Rs, 143000.00 Max. Rs, 268000.00, 5) Date of Pre-Bid meeting : 19/07/2022 (11.00 Hrs), 6) Last date for queries: 20/07/2022 (17.30 Hrs), 7) Last date for submission of tender : 21/07/2022 (16.00 Hrs), 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid: 22/07/2022 (16.30 Hrs), 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid : 26/07/2022 (16.30 Hrs), 10) Address for Enquiries & Clarifications : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) website : www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/ - Executive Engineer
PWD Division Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/346/MC&A/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI.

www.midnglb@rediffmail.com. PHONE : 08472 -220196

IFT No. EE/MI &GWD D/KAL/PB-1/2022-23/1410 Dated : 07-07-2022

-: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT KW-4) :-

1) Detail of work : THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI INVITES TENDER FROM THE ELIGIBLE TENDERERS FOR 4702 MOT WORKS FOR THE YEAR 2021-22, 2) Amount of Estimate : Rs. 132,54,835.47, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class-1 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: Tender Fee As per e-portal : E.M.D. Rs. 2,00,000.00, 5)Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications: 22-07-2022 Upto 11.00 Hours, 6) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: 25-07-2022 Up to 17.30 Hours, 7) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid : 26-07-2022 Up to 17.30 Hours, 8) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : 28-07-2022 Up to 17.30 Hours, 9) Addl. information: Executive Engineer, M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Kalaburagi, 10) Address of E-Portal : www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/342/MC&A/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

(PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION: YADGIR

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-1/e-Tender/2022-23/1480 Dated: 06.07.2022

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Details of works : On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTTP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-4 Karnataka Public Works Department invites item Rate Tender by Two Cover System Through e-Procurement Portal from Eligible Agency/ Contractors for following works pertaining to Shorapur Taluka-04 Nos. Under 5054 & 4059 Appendix-E the Work Indent No's are as follows, KW-4-Works (1)153420, (2)153422, (3)147465 and (4)147466. 2) Estimate Cost: Minimum Rs 120.00 Lakhs and Maximum Rs.400.00 Lakhs, 3) Contractor Eligible Details: Class-3rd & Above (As per rule), 4) Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details : Tender Fee as per e-proc and EMD Minimum Rs 2,00,000.00 and Maximum Rs.5,26,100.00, 5) Date & Time for Pre-Bid Meeting: 11.07.2022 (11.30 hrs), 6) Date & Time for receipt of queries: 13.07.2022 (17.30 hrs), 7) Last Date & Time for submission of the tender in e-procurement portal: 20.07.2022 (16.00 hrs), 8) Date & Time of Opening of the Technical Bid : 22.07.2022 (11.30 hrs), 9) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid: 26.07.2022 (11.30 hrs), 10) For More Details Contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division : Yadgir, 11) Website Address: www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in

DIP/Yadgiri/145/MC&A/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division:Yadgir.**

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

Post Bag no. 1, Yelwal, Mysore 571 130

NOTICE INVITING e- TENDER

The Superintending Engineer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mysore invites on behalf of the President of India, online tenders in two parts from experienced Contractors with sound financial & technical capacity for the following work(s):

Tender Reference No.	BARC/MYS/PM (M)/MPR/AS/WO/DF/ 2021/01
Name of the Work	PLC firmware up-gradation with programming, SCADA programming and deployment server commissioning
Estimated Cost	Rs. 58,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty eight Lakhs only)
Completion Period	24 calendar months including monsoon period.
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.1,16,000 (Rupees One lakh sixteen thousand)
Tender Sale Period	From 12.07.2022 (11:00 Hrs.) to 28.07.2022 (15:00 Hrs.)

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from web site https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app of BARC (Mysuru) (CPPP website)

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer, BARC
For & on behalf of the President of India

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients have entered in to Agreements for purchase of the proportionate undivided share right, title and interest of approximately 587 Sq. Meters, each in the property described in item 1 herebelow with the construction of Flats mentioned in item 2 here below to be constructed on item 1 property with all the easement rights over /or in respect of the said property and the Apartments.. Item 1. All that piece & parcel of the property covered by Sy.No.20/2 measuring 39 guntas and portion of Sy.No 20/1 measuring 7 guntas in Pillaganahalli village, Gottigere panchayath ,uttarahalli hobli, Bangalore south Taluk, converted by order No.B.Dis . ALN.SR(S)91/2004-05 bounded on East by : Toti inamti land Sy. No.19, west by : BDA layout & road, North by remaining portion of Sy.NO. 20/1, South by thota /Garden land of Lankesh. Item 2 : Residential Flat No. 203 in B Block on the second Floor measuring 1450 Sq. Ft and Residential Flat No. 204 in A Block respectively in SRIVARI GRACIOUS constructed by SRIVARI PROPERTIES. The owners of the properties and the Developers/ builders have assured anddeclared tomy clients that the land mentioned in item1 and the Flats tobe constructed are as per item 2 above are free from encumbrances, charges, claims, attachments, lease, lien, will, mortgage including by deposit of title deeds and also free from any acquisitions or requisitions and that the they have got good unimpeachable marketable right, title & interest over the said undivided shares and the Flats to be constructed . Any person or authority claiming any right, title, claim or charge of whatsoever nature in/on the said undivided share and the Flats aforesaid , shall send their objections in writing with the supporting documents and proof to the undersigned at the under mentioned address within 15 days from the date of the publication of this notice, failing which my clients shall proceed with the purchase and construction asa aforesaid. In the absence of any objections received within the period as above, shall be deemed that there are no objections or claims whatsoever nature from anybody or any authority , for purchase and construction as afresaid and my clients will proceed to complete the above transactions. . Any claims or objections received after the 15 days will not be taken in to consideration. Sd/- P. Narayana Bhat, Advocate, 899, 1 st Cross, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore -560 098, Mob .No. 9900489938.

Shivamogga City Corporation,Shivamogga

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division,Shivamogga City Corporation, Shivamogga

No:ಶಿಮನಪಾಕಾಅ.ಅ.ವಿದ್ಯುತ್.ವಿ.ಎಂ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್:10/2022-23 Date: 06.07.2022

Tender Notification (Through e-procurement)

Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 1999-2000 and Act 2000 and as per KW-02 (Sl. No. 01), KW-03 (Sl No. 02), KC-4 (Sl.No. 3) as prescribed in tender bid document for the present block period from eligible electrical contractors in single cover for Sl No. 01 & 03 works and in double cover for Sl. No. 2 works respectively in the limits of Shivamogga City Corporation. The bidders who are interested in participating through e-procurement tender can obtain the details in website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Schedule details: (1). The starting date for submission of tender with e-payment through e-procurement portal for Sl. No. 01 to 03: **07.07.2022. (2).** The last date and time for submission of tender with e-payment through e-procurement portal for Sl. No. 01 & 02: **22.07.2022. 16:00. (3).** The last date and time for submission of tender with e-payment through e-procurement portal for Sl. No. 03 : **16.07.2022, 16:00. (4).** The date and time of opening of financial bid for Sl.No.01 with e-payment and opening of technical bid for Sl. No. 2 through e-procurement portal : **25.07.2022, 16:30. (5).** The date and time of opening of tender with e-payment for Sl.No. 03 through e-procurement portal : **18.07.2022, 16:30. (6).** The date and time of opening of financial bid with e-payment for Sl. No. 03 through e-procurement portal : **29.07.2022, 16:30.**

Sl. No.	Name of works	Approx. amount (Rs in lakhs)	Grants	EMD amount (in Rs)	Period for completion of works (including rainy season)	Class of contractors
1	Works of Upgradation and renovation of electric motors of sewage treatment plant and installation of safety equipments at Tyavare Chatnalli.	35.00	15th Finance Commission's General basic grants for the year 2022-23.	70000.00	03 months	Class 1 Electrical and above
2	Electrical development work of sewage treatment plant at Tyavare Chatnalli.	60.00		120000.00	03 months	Class 1 Electrical and above
3	To provide the workers on behalf of City Corporation required to carry out emergency repair work under temporary distribution system for the maintenance of water supply.	11.20	City Corporation general grants for 2022-23	28000.00	06 months	As prescribed in bid document.

Any changes/corrigendum will be published in e-procurement only.

sd/-Executive Engineer (Electrical Division,)
City Corporation, Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No.40-07 zenkar/2022-23

FROM PAGE ONE

Gotabaya agrees to quit amid protests

Mass protests began in April as Sri Lanka's economic crisis deepened, following a balance of payments problem that led to a severe dollar crunch, manifesting in shortages and spiralling living costs.

On Saturday afternoon, despite police using water cannons and tear gas in the area, protesters stormed the palatial official residence of the President. Video footage of demonstrators taking a dip in the swimming pool, cooking in the kitchen, and occupying the plush bed at the home of the most powerful man in the country soon went viral on social media. Dozens entered the heavily guarded Presidential Secretariat nearby, whose entrance protesters have blocked and occupied for nearly three months, calling it 'gate zero' of the anti-government agitation site at Galle Face, Colombo's iconic oceanfront.

Massive crowds began descending in Colombo on Saturday morning, in a clear sign of citizens' resolve to oust their "failed" leaders. Despite public transport being severely hit – the country has nearly run out of fuel – tens of thousands reached the capital, travelling from other districts in overcrowded buses or trains. Barring a few who had conserved fuel for their private vehicles, most demonstrators arrived at Galle Face by foot, including those from Colombo's suburbs, walking 20 km or more to the venue in the hot sun. Dozens squeezed into pickup trucks, and chanted "Gota go home" as they held on to the vehicle's metal frame with one hand while vigorously waving the Sri Lankan flag in the other. Student groups had already marched to the main agitation site in the capital on Friday. "We have seen very little change or real action from the President and the government despite citizens' protesting for almost three months now. The call today is unanimous. We, as the people of Sri Lanka, have no choice but to make this call and be on the streets today, we are claiming back our power," said Bimsara Premaratne.

The government tried its very best to prevent the protests – asking the public prosecutor to obtain a restraining order, which the magistrate court refused to grant, and imposing an abrupt "police curfew" late Friday night, ordering people to stay home. The curfew backfired, amid wide resistance from lawyers, the political opposition, and civic activists. Authorities were forced to lift it on Saturday morning. However, police repeatedly resorted to tear gas, water cannons and attacks on peaceful protesters and media persons on Saturday, injuring dozens.

When the President and Prime Minister resign, the task of forming an all-party government would prove challenging given that the Sri Lankan Opposition is fragmented and the Opposition parties, together, do not have a parliamentary majority.

Even if the Opposition forms government, perhaps with support from MPs in the government benches, it would inherit a crashing economy with no quick fixes. A change at the country's helm will not mitigate its economic crisis. The IMF may take longer to gauge the stability of the new arrangement. Bilateral lenders, too, have reportedly decided to withhold further assistance until Colombo's negotiation with creditors is successful. Sri Lanka opted for a pre-emptive default on its $50-billion foreign debt in April and has since pinned its hopes on an IMF package to qualify for new credit.

Pakistan doubles efforts to 'trace' Masood

Pakistan has also raised the issue with the Taliban regime at a "ministerial level" in January 2022, and is following up the request, the submissions said. Pakistan pointed to a report submitted by the UN's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team to the UN Security Council's Counter Terror Committee, which India heads at present. The team's 13th report, submitted on May 26, 2022, said that the JeM is "a Deobandi group that is ideologically closer to the Taliban".

Indian officials were sceptical of Pakistan's claims that security forces are unaware of Masood Azhar's movements, given his prominence at his base in Bahawalpur, as well as frequently publicised hospitalisations for dialysis at a hospital in Rawalpindi. They pointed to the recent arrest of the LeT handler and mastermind of the 26/11 terror attacks, Sajid Mir, whom Pakistan had declared as "dead" until last year. However, after the U.S. pressure, Pakistan "re-evaluated" the forensic evidence on Mir in February 2022 and concluded he was alive. An intense hunt was then launched, their officials said, which resulted in Mir's arrest when he came to visit his ailing mother in April, and he was convicted and sentenced for terror financing within three weeks, just prior to a meeting between Pakistan's Bilawal Bhutto and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Now, Lakhimpur police seek custody of Zubair

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Hours after the Supreme Court granted interim bail to Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair on Friday in a case lodged against him in Sitapur of Uttar Pradesh, the Lakhimpur Kheri district police secured a production warrant for Mr. Zubair from a local court. The court directed that he be produced before it on Monday (July 11).

While the Supreme Court had clarified that it was granting bail only in the Sitapur case, jail officials in the district were supposed to release Mr. Zubair into the custody of the Delhi Police so that he can be taken back to Tihar jail for judicial custody in the Delhi FIR.

On Saturday evening, Sitapur jail superintendent Suresh Kumar Singh told *The Hindu* that Mr. Zubair was still in his jail. "We received the release warrant for Mr. Zubair in the Sitapur case. He is also in judicial custody in the Delhi case. And now, we have also received the production warrant in the Lakhimpur case. We have to release him but we are now yet to decide whether he will be taken to Delhi or to Lakhimpur."

Advocate Mukul Mishra, who represented Mr. Zubair in the Sitapur court, said, "I delivered the release warrant to the Sitapur jail on Friday evening. There is no reason why he should remain in Sitapur jail if granted bail in that case."

The office of the Superintendent of Police, Lakhimpur, said, "We are going to seek police custody of Mr. Zubair in the FIR registered at the Mohammadi police station."

Zelensky sacks Ukraine Ambassador to India

Polikha has been envoy for 7 years

DINAKAR PERI
KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Igor Polikha

Ukraine's Ambassador to India Igor Polikha was relieved of his post by President Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday, diplomatic sources confirmed to *The Hindu*. Mr. Polikha has been known as one of the most senior European diplomats with extensive experience in India's relations with Eastern Europe.

Mr. Polikha said he was neither surprised nor disappointed by the announcement as it was expected given his unusually long tenure here. "After seven years as Ambassador of any country, it is normal to return home. I will return whenever the official process is completed," said Ambassador Polikha to *The Hindu* confirming that his tenure in India has ended.

Mr. Polikha's appointment to India as Kyiv's envoy was made soon after the Crimean campaign by the Russian forces began in 2014. On February 24, when Russian forces invaded Ukraine, Mr. Polikha hit the headlines as he made an emotional appeal. "We are deeply dissatisfied by India's position. We are pleading for the strong voice of India in this case... Your Prime Minister Mr. Modi can address Mr. Putin, he can address our President," said Mr. Polikha in a dramatic press conference. He coordinated with the Indian side during the evacuation of Indian students from Kharkiv, Kyiv, Lviv, and other Ukrainian cities.

During most of his tenure, India-Ukraine ties stayed steady with the expansion of military, industrial, agricultural and people-to-people relationships.

North Zonal Council discusses security

To control crime, Shah wants cooperation among all States

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chairing a meeting of the Northern Zonal Council in Jaipur on Saturday. • PTI

The Northern Zonal Council deliberated on the issues of internal security, road, transport, industries, water, power, cyber crime and other subjects of common interests for eight northern States and Union Territories at its 30th meeting held here on Saturday. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who heads the Council, presided over the meeting.

The Chief Ministers, Lt. Governors and other functionaries representing the States and Union Territories highlighted the need for mutual coordination in the spirit of cooperative federalism to deal with the emerging threats to internal security. Mr. Shah laid emphasis on an effective cooperation among all States to control organised crime.

In addition to Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Chief Ministers Manohar Lal Khattar and Jai Ram Thakur of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh respectively, Lt. Governors Vinai Kumar Saxena and Radha Krishna Mathur of Delhi and Ladakh respectively, and Punjab Governor and administrator of Chandigarh Banwarilal Purohit attended the meeting. Senior officers from these States were also present.

A government official said that Mr. Mann had confirmed his participation but was represented by Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema instead. Apart from the Delhi Lt. Governor, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia represented the National Capital Territory (NCT). No official from Jammu and Kashmir attended the meeting because of the flash floods on the Amarnath Yatra route.

Mr. Shah called upon the States and Union Territories to conduct awareness campaigns on cyber-vigilance through various platforms in view of the impact of cyber crimes on national security, public order and economic activity.

(With inputs from Vijaita Singh in New Delhi)

Who allowed tents in risky area, asks NC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday demanded a probe into the Amarnath tragedy and questioned the decision to allow tents and *langars* (community kitchens) "in a dangerous area".

"The area where the cloudburst occurred is very dangerous. Tents and *langars* should not have been set up there. It is for the first time (they were erected). They used to be set up at Panjtarni," Dr. Abdullah said.

He demanded a probe. "We are saddened by the tragedy. We hope Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha will set up a commission to probe how it happened," Dr. Abdullah said.

He was hopeful of the yatra resuming after improvement in weather.

Satish Mahaldar, head of the J&K Peace Forum, blamed the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board and the J&K government for the deaths of yatris.

Quad leaders mourn Shinzo Abe

Under ex-PM, Japan began to champion idea of 'inclusive' Indo-Pacific region

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

> Abe also played a formative role in the founding of the Quad partnership and worked tirelessly to advance a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific.
> JOINT STATEMENT BY NARENDRA MODI, Joe Biden, and Anthony Albanese Quad leaders

Condoling the demise of Former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe, the leaders of Australia, India, and the United States on Saturday pledged that they will honour the memory of the slain leader by "redoubling" the work "towards a peaceful and prosperous" Indo-Pacific region.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese, and U.S. President Joe Biden expressed condolence jointly a day after Mr. Abe was assassinated by a former Japanese military professional and said, Mr. Abe played a "transformative" role in Japan's relationship with each of the three countries.

"He also played a formative role in the founding of the Quad partnership and worked tirelessly to advance a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific. Our hearts are with the people of Japan and Prime Minister Kishida – in this moment of grief. We will honour Prime Minister Abe's memory by redoubling our work towards a peaceful and prosperous region," the joint statement by the three leaders said.

Mr. Abe was the Prime Minister when Japan began to champion the idea of an "open and inclusive" Indo-Pacific region and helped create the Quad grouping including Australia, India, and the U.S. that called for maintaining open maritime corridors through the South China Sea that is crucial for global trade and economic relations. Quad began with meetings at the level of senior officials in 2017 and held its first leadership summit on September 24, 2021, which was attended by Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga, PM Modi, President Biden, and former Australian PM Scott Morrison. Mr. Abe had resigned from the post of Prime Minister in August 2020 because of ill health.

ED files complaint against Amnesty India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a prosecution complaint (chargesheet) against Amnesty International India Private Ltd. (AIIPL), Indians for Amnesty International Trust (IAIT) and others in a money laundering case.

The move comes after the Adjudicating Authority of the ED imposed penalties of ₹51.72 crore on AIIPL and ₹10 crore on its then chief executive officer, Aakar Patel, in connection with a show-cause notice issued under the Foreign Exchange Management Act in 2019.

The money laundering case is based on the first information report registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation against the accused entities for alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA).

According to the ED, in 2011-12, Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT) had been granted permission under the FCRA for receiving foreign contribution from Amnesty International-United Kingdom. However, the permission was subsequently revoked on the basis of adverse inputs received from security agencies.

Then, two new entities – IAIT and AIIPL – were formed in 2013-14 and 2012-13 allegedly to escape the FCRA route and receive overseas funds in the guise of service export and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Amnesty International-U.K. sent ₹51.72 crore to AIIPL on the pretext of export of services and FDI.

The agency alleged that there was no documentary evidence for the export of services supposedly extended to Amnesty International-U.K. No proof was submitted by AIIPL to the authorised dealer banks in this regard.

"Amnesty International India Private Limited and others have committed scheduled offence by claiming to be carrying out 'civil society work', but receiving forex in a profit-making company, thereby misutilising the FDI," said an official, adding that remittances received by AIIPL were layered into IAIT, which was a charitable trust.

The ED had earlier attached movable properties worth ₹19.54 crore and the attachment orders have been confirmed by the Prevention of Money Laundering Act Adjudicating Authority. "In light of above, a prosecution complaint has been filed under the PMLA against Amnesty International India Private Limited and others in the court of Principal City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bengaluru City, Bengaluru," the official said.

Amnesty India on Saturday tweeted: "We reiterate that the allegations of @dir_ed, a financial investigation agency under @FinMinIndia, that Amnesty International India was involved in 'money laundering', are patently untrue."

Officers of CBI leave after a search at the residence of Congress leader Karti Chidambaram, in Chennai. • PTI

CBI searches Karti's house in visa case

Documents and gadgets were seized

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A special team of the CBI on Saturday conducted searches at the residence of Congress MP Karti P. Chidambaram here in connection with finding proof in an ongoing case. Sources in the agency said nine almirahs were opened in the presence of Mr. Karti's wife. Some documents and electronic gadgets were seized.

The almirahs could not be opened during the searches held on May 17 this year since the keys were not available. Investigators sealed the premises where the almirahs were located. The CBI had registered a case against Mr. Karti, his close associate S. Bhaskar Raman, private companies based in Mumbai, Mansa (Punjab), and unknown public servants and private persons.

The case involves an alleged scam in the reissue of project visas for Chinese nationals who were engaged in a power project work in Punjab in 2011. A bribe of ₹50 lakh was allegedly paid to Bhaskar Raman for facilitating the reissue of project visas.

The investigating agency had said in the FIR that there were constant email communications between Mr. Makharia, the representative of the beneficiary firm, Mr. Raman and Mr. Karti. Mr. Makharia had also sent an email thanking Mr. Karti and even attached a copy of the permission letter given for the reissue of project visas.

A statement from G. Sarath Babu, Advocate, Madras High Court, explained that when the CBI search happened they found nothing. The advocate said that there was one cupboard in the residence that was locked and the owner was abroad. He said that the cupboard contained only clothes, and clarified that the CBI found nothing and seized nothing. The CBI has illegally seized a laptop and an iPad belonging to Mr. Karti's daughter that contains academic work.

We will worship in Kashi, Mathura temples, says VHP

Sankalp Yatra was held to condole killing of Kanhaiya, Kolhe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Right-wing activists participating in 'Samvidhan Sankalp Yatra', organised by VHP in New Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

"This country will not run on principles of Sharia, but based on the Constitution," said Vishwa Hindu Parishad's international working president Alok Kumar during the 'Samvidhan Sankalp Yatra' in New Delhi on Saturday. He assured the crowd attending the event that they would get to worship in the temples of 'Kashi' and 'Mathura' in their lifetime.

'Brutal' killing

At the yatra, organised to condole the 'brutal' killings of Kanhaiya Lal in Rajasthan and Umesh Kolhe in Maharashtra, Mr. Kumar said that no one can threaten, defeat and divide India in the present time.

"Some anti-national, Jihadi forces are trying to disturb the peace and communal harmony of this country. But let me tell them, they won't succeed. I want to tell all individuals and organisations with Islamic mindset and some countries that India will run on the basis of the Constitution and not the Sharia," said Mr. Kumar.

Creative freedom is an old tradition of India: RSS leader

People must not misuse it, says Sunil Ambekar

ISHITA MISHRA
NEW DELHI

Sunil Ambekar

Addressing a press conference on the last day of the three-day long 'Prant Prachark' meet organised in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu on Saturday, Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh's communication head Sunil Ambekar said that creative freedom is an old tradition of India but people must not use the same to hurt others.

Answering a question related to the *Kaali* movie controversy that erupted after Canada-based filmmaker Leena Manimekalai shared a picture of the goddess smoking and holding a gay pride flag, Mr. Ambekar said that people must be mindful while exercising creative freedom.

Speaking on the killing of Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur, Mr. Ambekar said,"There is democracy in our country. If someone does not like something, then there is a democratic way to give feedback on it. Civilised society condemns this type of incident. The people of Hindu community are responding in a peaceful, self-righteous manner and I urge that Muslim society should also come forward to condemn the same. There are some people in the Muslim community, who have condemned the same but more people must come forward to reproach the same as such incidents are neither in the interest of the society nor in the interest of the country."

He said the RSS was aiming for expansion to at least one lakh places by next year.

INTERVIEW | SACHIN PILOT

‘My aim is to break the 25-year jinx in Rajasthan’

Despite all our efforts, we have not been able to repeat a Congress government in the State, says former Deputy CM

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

For the past 25 years, the Congress has never been voted back to power in Rajasthan a second consecutive time. Senior leader and former Deputy Chief Minister **Sachin Pilot** *asserts that if the party works as a team, it can retain the voters' confidence in the 2023 Assembly election. Edited excerpts.*

You visited the family of Kanhaiya Lal [the tailor who was killed in Udaipur for supporting former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma] to express your solidarity, but the people are very angry with what happened. There was a clear threat to him, but the Rajasthan government seemed lax in providing security.

■ Of course, there is anger, anguish and horror. Such a barbaric and gruesome murder and then making the video viral in the name of religious fundamentalism hasn't happened before in Rajasthan and just cannot be tolerated. Though the culprits have been nabbed within hours and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the investigation, it must be ensured that swift and most severe punishment is awarded at the earliest. And more importantly, we need to get to the bottom of it – who all were the people, organisations and entities behind influencing, planning and supporting this gruesome act. Whether or not there were lapses, will be revealed once the investigation is over.

From the Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir [the party's brainstorming session held in May] to the Udaipur killing, the *chinta* [worry] for the Congress only seems to be growing

■ When it comes to battling terror and curbing religious fundamentalism, there can't be Congress-BJP or government versus Opposition debate. It's important for our nation and our society that there is communal harmony and peaceful coexistence for all of our citizens. The government and the administration of the day have to protect life and property of each and everyone of our citizens. The BJP's default fallback response to all and any question is to focus on deepening the religious fault lines and yield political benefit from that. The tenets enshrined in our Constitution have to be followed in letter and spirit.

Our party has adopted the "Udaipur Declaration" and work has already started to implement it at all levels of the organisation. It's apparent that government agencies are being used to hound the Congress and Opposition leaders, while institutions are being blatantly politicised. Our commitment is to speak out and stand up for the hard working farmers, young people, the poor and underprivileged in this country. To make the government accountable and answerable for the record high inflation, unemployment and agricultural crisis. That is our narrative, and there is no change.

Our commitment is to speak out and stand up for the hard working farmers, young people, the poor and underprivileged in this country

The Rajasthan Congress is witnessing a leadership tussle again. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot recently accused the BJP of being hand in glove with the rebels. Subsequently, he clarified that he had called you *nikamma* [useless] out of affection. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi too appreciated your patience. So, how long are you willing to be patient?

■ (Smiling) How long I need to be patient...? All I am doing is putting my head down and working for the party wherever and whenever directed by the party leadership. And as far as the name calling is concerned, I have already answered that many times (more smiles). But my values and upbringing have always taught me to be dignified and respectful, no matter what the adversity or the provocation is. Ultimately, the people and voters are the masters of our destiny as also the judge and jury. They are watching and listening to what we say and do. My aim right from the beginning has been to bring back a Congress government in the 2023 Assembly election. For the last 25 years, each time we have formed a Congress government in Rajasthan, we have ended up losing very badly to the BJP the next time. Despite all our efforts, we have not been able to repeat a Congress government in Rajasthan and of course that is a cause for concern. But there is no reason why we can't repeat in Rajasthan, we just have to do things differently to achieve it.

I have given my feedback and suggestions to the Congress president, Rahul *ji* and Priyanka *ji* regarding this. I am absolutely confident that if we all work together and as a team, we will be able to retain the voters' confidence in the next year's election.

With the Assembly election less than 15 months away, many believe if the Congress needs to change, the time is now.

■ I am not in a position to answer that question. Like I said before, the collective goal and objective for all of us is to win the next year's Assembly election.

It will be crucial because the general election of 2024 would then be only months away.

Reviving ties: Narendra Modi with Eknath Shinde and Devendra Fadnavis in New Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

Shinde, Fadnavis meet Modi and Shah

Talks on Cabinet expansion held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, their first meeting after assuming office in the State.

"Today, together with my colleague DyCM @Dev_Fadnavis met Prime Minister of India Hon.Shri @narendramodi to seek his blessings for Maharashtra's progress and thanked him for his untiring support," Mr. Shinde tweeted with the hashtag #hindutvawarriors.

Mr. Shinde and Mr. Fadnavis, who arrived in the capital on Friday night, also called on President Ram Nath Kovind, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP chief J.P. Nadda on Saturday.

Earlier, Mr. Shinde and Mr. Fadnavis had a lengthy discussion with Union Home Minister Amit Shah during which the formula for Cabinet expansion and the power-sharing arrangement between the Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction and the BJP were learnt to have been finalised. The announcement, however, will be made in Mumbai next week.

Addressing a press conference alongside Mr. Fadnavis, Mr. Shinde expressed confidence that his government would not only last its term but also form the next the government in alliance with the BJP.

He told reporters that he would try and understand the Prime Minister's vision for the development of the State and strive to take Maharashtra to newer heights. Projects like the Samruddhi Expressway connecting Mumbai and Nagpur, Metro rail in cities and digging farm ponds to boost irrigation, that were initiated by the Fadnavis government but had run into delays under the Uddhav Thackeray-led government, will be put on fast-track, Mr. Shinde added.

'We will win again'

"Maharashtra has a strong government. We have 164 MLAs while the opposition has 99. My government will complete its tenure. We will even win the next election," he said.

When Mr. Fadnavis was asked about the BJP cadre being unhappy over his "demotion" to the post of Deputy Chief Minister, he said that on the contrary, the party workers were happy that natural allies BJP and Shiv Sena have formed government, unseating the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance and the "injustice" done to them in 2019 has been rectified.

Offences being 'dropped' and 'added' in cases against Zubair

Multiple High Courts have ruled that altering an FIR is not permissible

ABHINAY LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

In both the Delhi and Uttar Pradesh cases in which Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair was arrested, the police have, after registering the FIR, told courts that they have "removed" and "added" certain Sections in the cases.

On June 28, the Delhi Police told a local court they had "removed" Section 295 of the IPC and "added" Section 295A (deliberate act to outrage religious feelings). This submission came as Mr. Zubair's lawyer pointed out that a tweet could not possibly fall within the ambit of Section 295 (injuring or defiling a place of worship).

At the next remand hearing on July 2, the Delhi Police told the court they were also "adding" Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 201 (destruction of evidence) of the IPC and Section 35 of the Foreign Contributions (Regulations) Act (FCRA).

Sitapur case

Similarly, after having registered the FIR on June 1, the Sitapur police on July 7 informed a court that they were "adding" Section 153A and in the July 8 Supreme Court hearing, informed that it had "removed" Section 67 of the IT Act from the case.

This was shortly after senior advocate Colin Gonsalves questioned how the tweet in question could fall within the ambit of Section 67 of IT Act (punishment for publishing or transmitting obscene material electronically). This practice has continued routinely across different cases despite there being no provision in the Code of Criminal Procedure that allows the investigating agency to amend, alter, add to or remove any part of the FIR (First Information Report).

First Information Report

Multiple High Courts have ruled that altering an FIR is not permissible, precisely because it is the First Information Report and will not remain so if altered.

They have also noted that the police are free to continue their investigation and remove or add penal provisions if their investigation revealed the need for it at the stage of filing the chargesheet.

Pankaj Ranga, an additional public prosecutor said, "In these circumstances, the police record what they find and how it led them to expand the probe to other sections of IPC in the case diary and inform the court about it." He added that the police or investigating agency has the full authority to freely proceed with their investigation in this manner if it finds the evidence to expand its probe.

Advocate-on-record, Shwetank Sailakwal, a criminal defence lawyer practising in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh said, "We know that case diary has been called the personal property of the police and what they record in that is what they claim to have found in their investigation."

Gujarat forms panel to fix quota for local body polls

Justice K.S. Jhaveri is appointed chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government has appointed former Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court K.S. Jhaveri as chief of the panel to fix the reservation for OBC communities in the elections to local bodies.

The State government had come under fire from the Opposition parties as well as OBC groups after the State Election Commission on July 2 issued an order directing district authorities to convert the 10% seats reserved for OBCs in the gram panchayat elections into 'general' seats.

"The Supreme Court had ordered that a commission or panel needed to be formed by the State government. Madhya Pradesh, which is also ruled by the BJP, appointed the commission four months back and fixed 27% reservation for OBCs in the local body elections," Mr. Chavda said, asking why the State government in Gujarat had taken so long to appoint the panel.

Spat over Chandigarh escalates after Haryana CM's announcement

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

The emotive issue surrounding the contending claims on Union Territory (UT) Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, festered once again on Saturday after Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal announced that the Centre has accepted the State's demand for land in Chandigarh towards the construction of an additional building of the Assembly.

Citing space crunch, Mr. Lal raised the demand during the 30th meeting of the Northern Zonal Council, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in Jaipur on Saturday. He said even though 56 years have passed since the State's creation, Haryana has not got its full rights.

Soon after the announcement, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann urged the Central government to allot land to Punjab similarly. "I appeal to the Central government that on the lines of Haryana, Punjab should also be allotted land in Chandigarh to build its own Assembly. There has been a demand for a long time that the Punjab and Haryana High Court should also be separated... for this as well, the Central government should kindly provide land in Chandigarh," he said in a tweet.

Mr. Mann's quick response in turn invited sharp criticism from political parties in the State including the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), Congress and Punjab Lok Congress, which termed his demand as tantamount to "diluting" and "surrendering" the State's claim on Chandigarh.

"I am shocked that someone who calls himself the Chief Minister of Punjab can issue statements to give up its widely acknowledged and inalienable right on its capital, Chandigarh. The entire city belongs to Punjab and the Punjab CM is begging for a little space on our own land for the Vidhan Sabha building" said SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal.

Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring said the Punjab government has knowingly or unknowingly tried to forfeit its right over the existing building.

DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
दिल्ली प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय
(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)
(Estd. by Govt. of NCT of Delhi vide Act 6 of 2009)
Shahbad Daulatpur, Bawana Road, Delhi 110 042

EXTENSION OF ON-LINE REGISTRATION FOR B. TECH (LATERAL ENTRY) ADMISSION 2022-23

Delhi Technological University has extended the on-line registration for B.Tech. (Lateral Entry) admission up-to 17-07-2022. Please refer the DTU website for revised schedule of admission activities.

Sd/-
Registrar

KMML The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
Sankaramangalam, Chavara - 691 583, Kollam, Kerala, India
Phone : +91-476-2651215 to 2651217.
Fax : +91-0476-2680101, 2686721.
E-mail : contact@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal. https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	Tender ID	Items
1.	2022_KMML_497406_1	For the supply of Support Roller Assembly for Roaster and Calciner- 2Nos
2.	2022_KMML_497094_1	For the supply of CS Pipe
3.	2022_KMML_497335_1	For the supply of N-101 Scrubber for Roaster-2 Nos

Chavara 08.07.2022 sd/- DGM(Mtls) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd
Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium Titanium Sponge Rutile, Zircon & Sillimanite

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.
No: E-Procurement Notice for Bridge works Date:

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Bridges as per Annexure (02 Nos)
2. Class of Contractor : "A" & Special Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : Varies from Rs.300.40 Lakhs to Rs.520.98 Lakhs (Approximately)
4. Details projects as per Annexure attached :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	Availability of Tender online for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of opening of tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD - Online - 20/2022-23	12.07.2022 at 11.00 A.M.	01.08.2022 up to 05.30 P.M.	30.07.2022 up to 1.00 P.M.	02.08.2022 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site : https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.

O-612: Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.
OIPR-25182/11/0022/2223

राजस्थान स्वास्थ्य विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय
सेक्टर-18, कुम्भा मार्ग, प्रताप नगर, जयपुर-302033
दूरभाष : 0141-2795501, फैक्स : 0141-2791803
क्रमांक : एफ.6/स्टोर/राज.स्वा.वि.वि./2022-23/9613 दिनांक : 05.07.2022
ई-निविदा सूचना

इस विश्वविद्यालय में आवश्यक निम्न कार्य करवाने हेतु ई-प्रपत्र प्राप्त करने की दृष्टि से अनुभवी, पंजीकृत फर्मों से मोहरबन्द निविदाएँ निम्न विवरणानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती हैं :-

क्र. सं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (करोड़ में)	बोली प्रतिभूति राशि	निविदा शुल्क	निविदा प्राप्त करने की दिनांक	निविदा जमा करवाने की अंतिम दिनांक
1.	विश्वविद्यालय में "Annual rate contract for computerization of pre & post examination work of all regular examinations including Domain, Website & Database Management (ruhsraj.org) and Enterprise Mail Solution (on Gmail)" हेतु निविदा UBN : RUH2223SLOB00810	2.25	4,50,000/-	1000.00	06.07.2022	04.08.2022

विस्तृत विवरण विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाईट www.ruhsraj.org या www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in या eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।
राज. संवाद/सी/2022-23/4633 कुलसचिव

PURABI DAIRY
West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd. (WAMUL)
World Bank Financed Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)
Ref No. MD/PC/APART/E-Tender/2022-23/05 Dated: 10th July, 2022
E-procurement Tender Notice
The West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited (WAMUL) is an implementing agency of World Bank Financed (APART) Project and now intends to purchase the following item from the eligible bidder as mentioned below:

Sl. No	Category	Date of publishing tender	Last date of submission of Quotations
1	Frozen Semen Dose	13-07-2022	12-08-2022
2	Solar Powered Instant Milk Cooler	18-07-2022	18-08-2022
3	Solar Water Heater	20-07-2022	20-08-2022

The details of the E-tender will be published and available at www.assamtenders.gov.in as mentioned above. If any corrigendum will be issued, it will be published in www.assamtenders.gov.in on or before last date and timing for submission of bid. No separate notification for publication of corrigendum or extension of last date of submission of bid will be made through Newspaper advertisement.
Sd/- Managing Director

Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA)
(Deptt. Of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of U.P.)
Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, U.P. – 226010, Mb No: 9415609006, Fax: 05222720779, 2720829
Website : www.upneda.org.in E-mail : rfs_etender@rediffmail.com

e- Tender Notice
NIT:- 02/UPNEDA-GCRT-Phase-2/Bid-38/2022-23

Uttar Pradesh New & Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) invites e-bids from eligible bidders to participate in Request for Proposal (RFP) for empanelment of vendors for Site Survey, Design, Installation, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning including Warranty and 5 years of Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of Roof Top Solar PV Power System for Residential Consumers under MNRE GCRT Phase-2 scheme in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

Name of Work	Bid Capacity	Bid Processing Fees	Availability of Bid document on e-bid web portal
Empanelment of vendors for Site Survey, Design, Installation, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning including Warranty and 5 years of Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of Roof Top Solar PV Power System for Residential Consumers under MNRE GCRT Phase-2 scheme in the state of Uttar Pradesh.	38 MW*	Rs. 11800/- inclusive of 18% GST	11-07-2022, 6:00pm onwards

* UPNEDA has set a target to cover 1, 00,000 No's of Residential consumers which is about 300 MW. At present, subsidy would be given to 38 MW as per the MNRE sanction 318/63/2019-Grid Connected Rooftop –Part (1) dated 15.11.2021. This tender would also extend to the remaining 262 MW when & by approved by MNRE at the same rate for the Financial Year 2022-2023.

The bid document shall be available for downloading from **11-07-2022, 6:00pm** onwards on eprocurement website **http://etender.up.nic.in** or **www.upneda.org.in.** For further details and updates please refer to UPNEDA website **www.upneda.org.in** and **http://etender.up.nic.in** Director Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of Director UPNEDA will be final and binding.

Save electricity for your better tomorrow DIRECTOR, UPNEDA

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION
E-TENDER
Tender Notice No.CAO-CN-MS-PMS-04-JULY-22 Dated 05-07-2022
Tender Notice No.08-CECNMS-2022-E-276559-II Dated 07-07-2022
Tender Notice No.09-CECNMS-2022-E-275275-II Dated 07-07-2022
Tender Notice No.10-CECNMS-2022-E-282472 Dated 08-07-2022

The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal www.ireps.gov.in. The Tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted.

(1) Name of the Work : Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of Authority Engineer for Providing Project Management Services for REDEVELOPMENT OF KATPADI JN RAILWAY STATION.
Approximate Cash Value (Rupees) : 69377280.00;
Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees) : 496900.00;
Period of Completion in Months : 36; Closing Date : 06.09.2022 @ 15.30 Hrs
Pre-Bid Conference Date : 25.07.2022 @ 11.00 Hrs

(2) Name of the Work : Arakkonam - Upgradation and Augmentation of Infrastructural facilities to increase Holding capacity upto 175 Locos in ELS/AJJ.
Approximate Cash Value (Rupees) : 87621697.72;
Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees) : 588100;
Period of Completion in Months : 11; Closing Date @ 15.30 hrs : 29.07.2022

(3) Name of the Work : Tiruchchirappali Division - Villupuram - Tiruchchirappalli section. Proposed Road Over Bridge 1 x 45.00 m over track span and 1 x 19.04 m over non track span, Composite girder in lieu of exg. LC No.206 at Km.284/9 - 285/0 between Sillakudi and Kallagam Stations with 4.50 x 3.70 m Limited Use Subway.
Approximate Cash Value (Rupees) : 90064532.05;
Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees) : 600300;
Period of Completion in Months : 12; Closing Date @ 15.30 hrs : 29.07.2022

(4) Name of the Work : Proposed New BG line between Chinnasalem and Kallakurichi - Proposed Construction of Minor bridges and LUSs between Ch:0.00 to Ch:17350, Eathwork in cutting, forming bank between Ch:0.00 to Ch:4450 and Ch:14500 to Ch:17350. (TWO PACKET SYSTEM)
Approximate Cash Value (Rupees) : 222190287.20;
Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees) : 1261000;
Period of Completion in Months : 15; Closing Date @ 15.30 hrs : 04.08.2022

For further details, please refer to website portal www.ireps.gov.in or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

Chief Engineer (Construction), Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited
"SARAS SANKUL", J.L.N. MARG, JAIPUR-302017, Tele-Fax: 0141-2702135
E-mail: dpm-rcdf@rajasthan.gov.in, Website: www.sarasmilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in
Dated : 07.07.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Single Stage two-envelopes unconditional Technical and Financial e-tenders/Bids are invited by Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited, from experienced manufacturers having manufacturing facilities situated in Rajasthan and its adjoining states only, for service contract of conversion of surplus milk into Ag-mark Ghee and ISI mark SMP & WMP to be supplied by our milk unions. Brief particulars of the procurement are given below:

Approximate Value of Services	Last time and date for receiving Bids	Period of the Contract	Validity period of Bids	Price of Bidding Document	Bid Security
Rupees 02.00 Crore	Upto 3.00 PM of 10/08/2022	12 Months	120 Days	Rs. 2360/-	Rs. 4,00,000/- (Rs. Four Lacs Only)

The Complete Bidding Document can be obtained from our website www.sarasmilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. Bid will be submitted on http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
(UBN : CDF2223SLRC00481)
General Manager (DPM & Proj.)

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
AUCTION PROGRAMME
NOTICE NO : 08/2022

e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc Scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.

Sl. No.	e-auction conducted by	Date of auction for the month of August 2022			Materials for auction
1	GSD/PER	01.08.22	12.08.22	24.08.22	The details of item to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue in www.ireps.gov.in website.
2	CSSD/GOC	02.08.22	16.08.22	25.08.22	
3	SSD/PTJ	02.08.22	-	25.08.22	
4	MAS Division	03.08.22	17.08.22	26.08.22	
5	SA Division	03.08.22	17.08.22	26.08.22	
6	TVC Division	04.08.22	22.08.22	29.08.22	
7	PGT Division	04.08.22	22.08.22	29.08.22	
8	TPJ Division	10.08.22	-	30.08.22	
9	MDU Division	10.08.22	-	30.08.22	

For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site http://www.ireps.gov.in > E-Auction > Sale > Live Auctions.

Principal Chief Materials Manager.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

MGNREGS site supervisors left in the lurch in their wait for salary payments

The Mates, front-line supervisors of the programme who mobilise the workers, face inordinate delays because of structural flaws in the employment programme

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Sonu Salvi, 24, of Bhilwara district in Rajasthan aspires to be a teacher. She has just completed her BA and is hoping to do a B.Ed. next, except that she doesn't know how to pay for her further education.

She had been funding her studies through wages she earned as a 'Mate' or site supervisor under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). However, since December 2021, she hasn't received her wages.

"I had to take a loan of ₹10,000 to pay the tuition fee for myself and my younger sister for the last year of the BA course. I have forgotten the number of applications I have written and the several rounds of the panchayat office that I have made. Each time, I get a stock reply - "You will get the payment when Centre pays"," Ms. Salvi said.

One among many

Ms. Salvi's example is just one of the many among the Mates in Rajasthan, whose wages have been inordinately delayed. Rajasthan is also not the only State to face this problem.

As per the MGNREGS, the wages of unskilled workers is to be paid within 15 days and if there is a delay, the Centre has to compensate them.

Mates, who are the front-line supervisors of the programmes, are listed as semi-skilled workers because of the specialist nature of their job. What should have been a leg-up for them has tragically ended up being a complication. Their wages come from the "material component", 60% of which is paid by Union government. This component is now being released erratically, caught up in bureaucratic delays and chronic fund crunch.

Mounting dues: According to the scheme, the wages of unskilled workers should be paid within 15 days. •FILE PHOTO

In the case of Rajasthan, as per K. K. Pathak, Secretary, Rural Development, it was only a fortnight ago that the Union government cleared its dues. Importantly, this payment came after a gap of more than a year. The last tranche had arrived in April 2021.

SPECIAL

The Mates in Rajasthan are paid only marginally more than the workers.

While MGNREGS workers get ₹231 per day, the Mates get ₹235. Unfortunately for those extra few rupees, Ms. Salvi and many mates like her have to wait endlessly for their wages to come.

In face of delayed wages, the women Mates have to tackle greater odds.

Jamuna Devi, from village Barakhan in Ajmer District, said, "I have two children. When I go for work, I leave them with my mother-in-law. And when my wages are delayed, I have to also field taunts from my family. Why are you going to work if you do not get any money, they say."

Unskilled category

To deal with this systemic flaw in Chhattisgarh, the Mates are clubbed with unskilled labourers so that at least their wages aren't delayed.

In Jharkhand, too, according to Siraj Dutta of MGNREGS Sangarsh Morcha, the Mates, discouraged by the delay, have started listing themselves in the unskilled category.

In Karnataka, the State government has found a way around the problem. "We pay the Mates the same rates as the unskilled workers, but in addition to that they get incentive. A male Mate gets ₹4 and a female one ₹5 per worker they mobilised. This incentive comes from the material component, which is released when we get the funds from Centre. This way only a small part of their wages are delayed," said L. K. Atheeq, Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, at Government of Karnataka

Many States have petitioned to the Union government to find a permanent solution to this problem. "We have asked the Centre to de-link the wages for skilled and semi-skilled workers from the material component, so that they get paid on time," Mr. Pathak added.

Mates are critical functionaries of the MGNREGS, activist Nikhil Dey, said. "The programme's success or failure depends on the Mates. They should undoubtedly be paid more for the work they do. Instead, of paying them the attention they deserve, they have been left on a limb. There is poor capacity building, poor supervision, and they are not provided a support structure," Mr. Dey added.

Artificial diet, feeding device for mosquitoes

ICMR bid to patent two new products

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC), Puducherry, has filed patent applications for two of its unique products – an artificial diet and a feeding device for mosquitoes reared in laboratory – with the Indian Patent Office recently.

The products will allow the efficient mass-rearing of mosquitoes in laboratory.

The team has also planned to approach to patent it at the global level.

"Both the products have been awarded a unique number which will protect the Intellectual Property (IP) of both," Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Director of VCRC said.

The two products allow efficient and cost-effective mass-rearing of mosquitoes in laboratory as it is important to keep these mosquitoes healthy to investigate basic facets of their biology and to study vector-borne disease and measures to control it.

Speaking about the products, Dr. Nisha Mathew, one of the inventors who formulated 18 different diets, said: "Mosquito females require animal or human blood diet to produce eggs. For this, blood has to be obtained from blood banks or live animals. Regular supply of blood from blood banks is not easy. Considering these challenges and huge potential demand, we have zeroed in on four artificial diets for feeding."

She further explains, "These four diets prepared for female mosquitoes are like a baby formula food and have all the essential nutrients, which are present in the blood. These diets would attract hungry female mosquitoes to accept the meal, taste like blood, produce healthy and viable eggs which should hatch like normal eggs, form healthy offspring useful for laboratory research and mass production whenever necessary."

Dr. Kumar said that the foods needed to be kept at a certain temperature. "It was very difficult to maintain the feed temperature to the optimum level of 37 degrees Celsius, which is human body temperature, by usual water circulation or by using the melted wax," he said.

Dr. Mathew said, "Hence a device with controlled temperature was invented."

The director said, "These products are a success story of an artificial mosquito diet and feeder that is commercially viable and has great potential in rearing mosquitoes for research purposes. It is also capable of mass production of mosquitoes for their control based on sterile insect technology, population replacement, or population reduction study and Wolbachia endosymbiont bacteria-based control operations."

Technical snags mar UGC-NET across India; candidates protest

Some centres witness three-hour delays; students distressed by lack of clarity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Eligibility Test (NET) of the University Grants Commission (UGC) on Saturday was marred by technical glitches across several centres in the country, resulting in cancellation or delays that led to walk-outs and protests.

There were two shifts of the three-hour test. The morning shift was scheduled to start at 9 a.m., and the afternoon shift at 3 p.m. But at some centres, the morning test did not start till noon, while at others, it started after a delay of over two hours.

At JSS Institute of Technology in Noida, the candidates had assembled inside the examination hall and were waiting at their assigned places to start the test at 9 a.m. But as the clock struck 9, their computer screens did not reflect their question papers.

Prolonged wait

"Students started panicking when the exam didn't start. We were initially told to wait for five-10 minutes, but we were in the hall till 12 p.m. and they were still not able to fix the technical problem. The representatives of the exam centre said that the glitch was from the National Testing Agency (NTA) end," Arham Ali Khan, a postgraduate from Jamia Millia Islamia University, said.

NET is held to shortlist candidates for the post of Assistant Professors and award Research Fellowships. •FILE PHOTO

He added that by noon, students had begun to get restless and started walking out. "But we were not allowed to leave for nearly 30 minutes. The NTA staff asked those who were leaving for an undertaking, which many protested against as the onus [for the students' not taking the exam] is on the NTA," Mr. Khan said.

Vineet Joshi, Director-General, NTA, said the exam was cancelled only at four or five centres, where it would be conducted again. "The delay was due to extra security in our system, due to which it took more time to download the papers. But students were given full time to write the exam," he said. He admitted that students could have faced a technical lag, but said candidates who experienced such problems would have to write to the NTA.

In Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad, at the Bhagwati Institute of Technology, the exam started at 11.30 a.m. "Many like me reached the centre at 7 a.m. and so some candidates demanded refreshments, but nothing was available. Many had travelled from the interior parts of Uttar Pradesh such as Muzaffarnagar and Bijnore and they were hungry. The exam centre was not in the city, so there were no shops or eateries around either," Niharika Shukla, a postgraduate student of Jawaharlal Nehru University, said. She demanded that the exam be held again.

The National Institute of Technology in Kozhikode saw protests after the morning shift started three hours late, at noon, and many students faced technical problems while answering the test.

'Too many errors'

"Students say there were too many technical errors and when they tried to move from one question to another, the system would take at least 20 seconds. They said they would have wasted 20-30 minutes because of the issues. While the invigilators told the candidates that they would be given extra time, since it is a computer-based test, their time was up after three hours," said Mohammed Shaquib, who was in the second shift, which was also delayed.

At Bengaluru's JSS Academy of Technical Education, too, the exam started at 11 a.m. and students complained that they encountered technical problems.

Students said that not just on the day of the exam but the days leading up to it were also stressful as they were informed of the exam dates only four days before and received their admit cards with information on their exam centres only on Friday.

After week-long battle, woman dies of burns

She was set ablaze over a land dispute

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
RAIPUR

Rampyari Bai, the 45-year-old tribal woman who was allegedly set ablaze over a land dispute in Guna of Madhya Pradesh on July 2, died of burns on Friday.

Rampyari Bai, who belonged to the Sahariya tribe that has been categorised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), had suffered 80% burns.

After Rampyari Bai's husband raised an alarm following the incident, which was filmed by a group of villagers, she was first taken to the district hospital and from there referred to a Bhopal hospital, where she died during treatment.

Additional sections

The police confirmed the death, and added that the accused will now be charged with Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code.

Earlier, Rampyari's husband Arjun Sahariya had told the police that he had seen six fellow villagers – brothers Pratap and Hanumant Dhakad, their three family members, and one family friend, Maharaj Pandit – set Rampyari Bai ablaze after pouring diesel on her.

The police had initially registered a case of attempt to murder, and added relevant provisions of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Five of the six accused have been arrested so far, while Mr. Pandit remains at large, said Guna Superintendent of Police Pankaj Shrivastava.

The accused persons maintain that the woman set herself ablaze but investigations so far have not revealed anything to substantiate that claim, the SP added.

History

Rampyari is survived by four children, including three married daughters, apart from her husband.

The immolation, Mr. Arjun Sahariya had alleged earlier, was the outcome of a dispute over a patch of land allotted to them under a Chief Minister's welfare scheme launched by the erstwhile Digvijaya Singh government.

A dispute with the accused over the ownership of the land was settled by the local administration in their favour in May, he added.

Nearly a week before the incident on June 23, Mr. Arjun Sahariya had reportedly sought police protection claiming that his life was under threat. However, no action was taken.

Glaciers in Drass are receding fast, says study

Study of 77 glaciers in the Drass basin says proximity to National Highway affecting their health

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The decadal pace at which glaciers are receding in the Drass region, a key battleground in Ladakh during the 1999 Kargil war, points to a grave threat to Himalayan glaciers. A recent study attributes this to the growing vehicular traffic in the region, which has been witnessing a massive military build-up on both the sides of Line of Actual Control (LAC) since 2020.

The study published by the journal *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* is based on satellite images of 77 glaciers observed over two decades, from 2000 to 2020, in the Drass basin of the western Himalayas. The glaciers studied ranged in size from 0.27 sq.km to 14.01 sq.km, with an average size of 2.3 sq.km. The study reports that the glacier area decreased from 176.77 sq.km in 2000 to 171.46 sq.km in 2020, which is about 3% of the total glacier area.

"The pace of glacial recession varies greatly among glaciers ranging from 0.24% to 15%. The snout retreat for the period ranged from 30 metres to 430 metres. Debris cover had a significant impact on glacier melting, with clean glaciers losing 5% more than debris-covered glaciers. The average thickness change and mass loss of glaciers have been 1.27 to 1.08 metres," the study pointed out.

Climatologist Shakil Ahmad Romshoo and five research scholars, Khalid Omar Murtaza, Waheed Shah, Tawseef Ramzan, Ummer Ameen and Mustafa Hameed Bhat, participated in the study.

Collateral damage: The study says that heavy vehicular movement is the main cause for the receding ice in Ladakh's Drass region, a key battleground during the 1999 Kargil war. •FILE PHOTO

Carbon concentration

The analysis shows that glaciers at lower elevations receded by 4.1%, whereas glaciers at mid- and higher elevations receded by 3.23% and 1.46% over the period observed.

The study found that heavy vehicular movement is the main cause for the rapid pace at which glaciers are receding in the region. Black carbon concentration ranged from 287 to 3,726 nanograms per cubic metre, with an average of 1,518 nanograms per cubic metre, "which is markedly higher compared to the black carbon concentration reported from other high-altitude locations in the Hindu Kush Himalayas".

"From 1980 to 2020, black carbon concentration has increased significantly from 338 nanogram per cubic metre in 1984 to 634 nano gram per cubic metre in 2020. It is inferred that the increasing black carbon concentration, due to the proximity to the National Highway, has significantly affected the glacier health."

The study points out that 17 glaciers situated close to the highway showed higher glacier shrinkage (4.11%) and snout retreat (209 m) than the glaciers situated further away from the national highway, with glacier shrinkage (2.82%) and snout retreat (148 m). "Heavy vehicles are responsible for 60% of black carbon emissions," it added.

Differentiation difficult

"Given the global nature of climate change, it is challenging to distinguish between the effects of civilian and military infrastructure and mobilisation on the environment and glaciers in the absence of data. However, when you consider the number of military vehicles on the Srinagar-Leh highway, they make up a very small portion of the overall traffic on the road," Mr. Romshoo told *The Hindu*. "In absence of any data or information on India-China military mobilisation and manoeuvring in the greater Ladakh region, it's not possible to reach any scholarly conclusion on the subject immediately," he added.

Warning of the consequences, the study says: "It is feared that if the observed trends of the climate change continue in the future , glaciers in the Himalayas may disappear entirely, having a significant impact on regional water supplies, hydrological processes, ecosystem services and transboundary water sharing."

In J&K, Sinha vows to end Kashmir issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Former BJP leader and Union Minister Yashwant Sinha, who is the Opposition's candidate for the President's post, on Saturday, arrived in Srinagar and promised to push for the final settlement of the Kashmir issue if elected.

"If I am elected as President, one of my priorities will be to urge the government to take necessary steps to resolve the Kashmir issue permanently and restore peace, democracy and end the hostility towards Jammu and Kashmir," Mr. Sinha said.

Mr. Sinha was received by National Conference chief and Gupkar alliance president Farooq Abdullah at the Srinagar airport. Dr. Abdullah was seen driving Mr. Sinha to his residence where top leaders, including Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti, Jammu and Kashmir Congress president G.A. Mir and CPI(M) leader M.Y. Tarigami, met him.

Briefing journalists in Srinagar after meeting the leaders, Mr. Sinha asked the Centre to restore Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and conduct Assembly elections.

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	4	3	6	9	8	5	1
1	6	9	8	4	5	3	2	7
5	8	3	2	1	7	9	4	6
7	4	6	1	5	8	2	3	9
8	2	5	7	9	3	6	1	4
9	3	1	4	2	6	5	7	8
6	1	2	9	3	4	7	8	5
3	5	7	6	8	1	4	9	2
4	9	8	5	7	2	1	6	3

U.S., China hold 'constructive' talks in Bali

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BALI

The United States and China held constructive talks on Saturday, the two sides said, after an unusually long meeting aimed at preventing bilateral tensions from spiralling out of control.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held their first talks since October on the Indonesian island of Bali.

"Despite the complexities of our relationship, I can say with some confidence that our delegations found today's discussions useful, candid and constructive," Mr. Blinken said after five hours of talks.

"The relationship between the United States and China is highly consequential for our countries but also for the world. We are committed to managing this relationship – this competition – responsibly," he said, promising to keep open channels of diplomacy with Beijing.

China's Foreign Ministry said the two sides had broadly agreed to work to improve ties – but also reeled off a laundry list of grievances against Washington, accusing the U.S. of "smearing and attacking" its political system.

"The two sides... reached a consensus to promote the Sino-U.S. joint working group consultation to achieve more results," it said, reporting they "also agreed to strengthen cooperation on climate change and public health".

"Both sides believe that this dialogue is substantive and constructive, which will help enhance mutual understanding, reduce misunderstandings and misjudgment," it added.

Angry protesters cool off in pool after storming President's house

People take turn lounging on Gotabaya's king-size bed, help themselves to pantry

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

After months of angry demands for Sri Lanka's President to stand down, protesters laughed, took selfies and treated themselves to a swim as they suddenly found themselves inside his home.

The presidential palace in Colombo was overrun by hundreds of people on Saturday, capping months of public discontent over the island nation's crippling economic crisis.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had fled just moments earlier. Once he had left, the mood inside the compound was festive, as the crowd set aside the frustrations of long-running food and fuel shortages, as well as a tense confrontation with security forces earlier in the day.

"We are in Gotabaya's room, this is the underwear he left behind," one young man said while holding up black briefs on a live video shared on multiple social media channels. "He has left his shoes behind too."

On the grounds of the compound, dozens of men shed their shirts and jumped into the presidential pool, with some doing somersaults and frolicking in the water. Hundreds of others sat down on carefully manicured lawns for a break from the morning's confrontation with police officers, who had fired barrages of tear gas and water cannon at demonstrators.

The crowd had managed to work their way into the compound after dismantling barricades and scaling its high gates with the help of a captured police truck.

As the protesters surged forwards, the police officers and Army troops guarding the residence melted away.

Public outcry: Protesters gathering near the presidential palace in Colombo on Saturday; a monk throwing back a tear gas canister; and protesters swimming in a pool in the compound. • AFP, AP

Some of the crowd took turns lounging on Mr. Rajapaksa's king-size bed and the comfortable sofas.

'Don't vandalise'

Protesters also helped themselves to the presidential pantry, with snacks and soft drinks seen spread out on counter tops.

"I was surprised to see that an air conditioner was working in his bathroom. We have to put up with endless blackouts," a man who entered the palace said.

As they marched in, a university student climbed a gate post and loudly urged the throng not to vandalise or loot the state residence, which is home to a repository of priceless artefacts.

"We called Gota a thief and got him out, please do not remove anything from the palace," he said. "We should not be thieves like the Rajapaksas."

The presidential palace was formerly known as the "Queen's House", and was the official residence of British Governors until Sri Lanka won independence in 1948. Since then, it has been the official residence of Sri Lanka's heads of state – but many past leaders have believed it to be haunted.

Only one President had lived there briefly in recent years, while all others had used it only to receive visiting dignitaries.

Mr. Rajapaksa moved there in April, soon after thousands of protesters attempted to invade his private home during a major demonstration. That residence was not overrun, but he moved to the presidential palace in the ultimately futile hope that it would be safer.

'Relentless' Russian shelling pounds eastern Ukraine

Moscow is seeking to push deeper into Donetsk

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DRUZHKIVKA

Russian troops pursued their "relentless" shelling of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region on Saturday as Ukrainian officials warned Moscow was preparing for further attacks and Washington promised new military aid to Kyiv.

Having endured long battles to capture cities in the neighbouring Luhansk region, Russia is now seeking to push deeper into Donetsk to consolidate its hold over the entire Donbas region.

Air raid sirens sounded overnight throughout the country's east and south.

Residents in the small town of Druzhkivka, south of the eastern Ukrainian industrial city of Kramatorsk, woke up to a suspected missile attack on Saturday which ripped apart a supermarket and left a massive crater outside.

Ukrainian officials said on Saturday five people were killed in the Donetsk region in the past 24 hours while seven were injured.

"The entire frontline is under relentless shelling," Donetsk military administration chief Pavlo Kyrylenko said in a Telegram message on Friday night.

He said the city of Sloviansk, on which Moscow's troops have now set their sights, is being "shelled day and night".

He also accused Russian forces of setting agricultural fields on fire, saying they were "trying to destroy the harvest by all means".

Luhansk Governor Sergiy Gaiday said on Saturday the Russians were attacking Donetsk from their bases in his region.

"We are trying to contain their armed formations along the entire frontline... Where it is inconvenient for them to go forward, they create real hell, shelling the territories on the horizon," he said.

Standing firm: Ukrainian soldiers unloading British armoured personnel carriers (APC) near Bakhmut on Saturday. • AFP

Ukrainian military recruits begin training in Britain

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

The first batch of up to 10,000 inexperienced Ukrainian military recruits set to train in Britain over the coming months have started drills, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said on Saturday.

The new British-led programme involves 1,050 U.K. service personnel training the Ukrainian volunteers, who have little to no military experience, at MoD sites across England for several weeks. The crash course is based on Britain's basic soldier training, covering weapons handling, battlefield first aid, fieldcraft, patrol tactics and the laws around armed conflict.

Show of support

It follows the U.K.'s Operation Orbital – prompted by Russia's 2014 invasion of Crimea and eastern Ukraine – which gave 22,000 Ukrainians military training between 2015 and 2022.

"This ambitious new training programme is the next phase in the U.K.'s support to the Armed Forces of Ukraine in their fight against Russian aggression," Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said in a statement, after visiting the latest recruits this week.

"Using the world-class expertise of the British Army we will help Ukraine to rebuild its forces and scale-up its resistance as they defend their country's sovereignty and their own future."

Xi hails Abe's contribution to ties

Thousands of Chinese social media users 'celebrate' killing, trigger debate

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

China's President Xi Jinping on Saturday sent a message of condolence to Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in the wake of the death of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Mr. Xi "pointed out that former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made efforts to improve China-Japan relations when he was in office and contributed positively to this endeavour", the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, adding that he "noted that he had reached important common understanding with Abe on building a China-Japan relationship that meets the need of the new era".

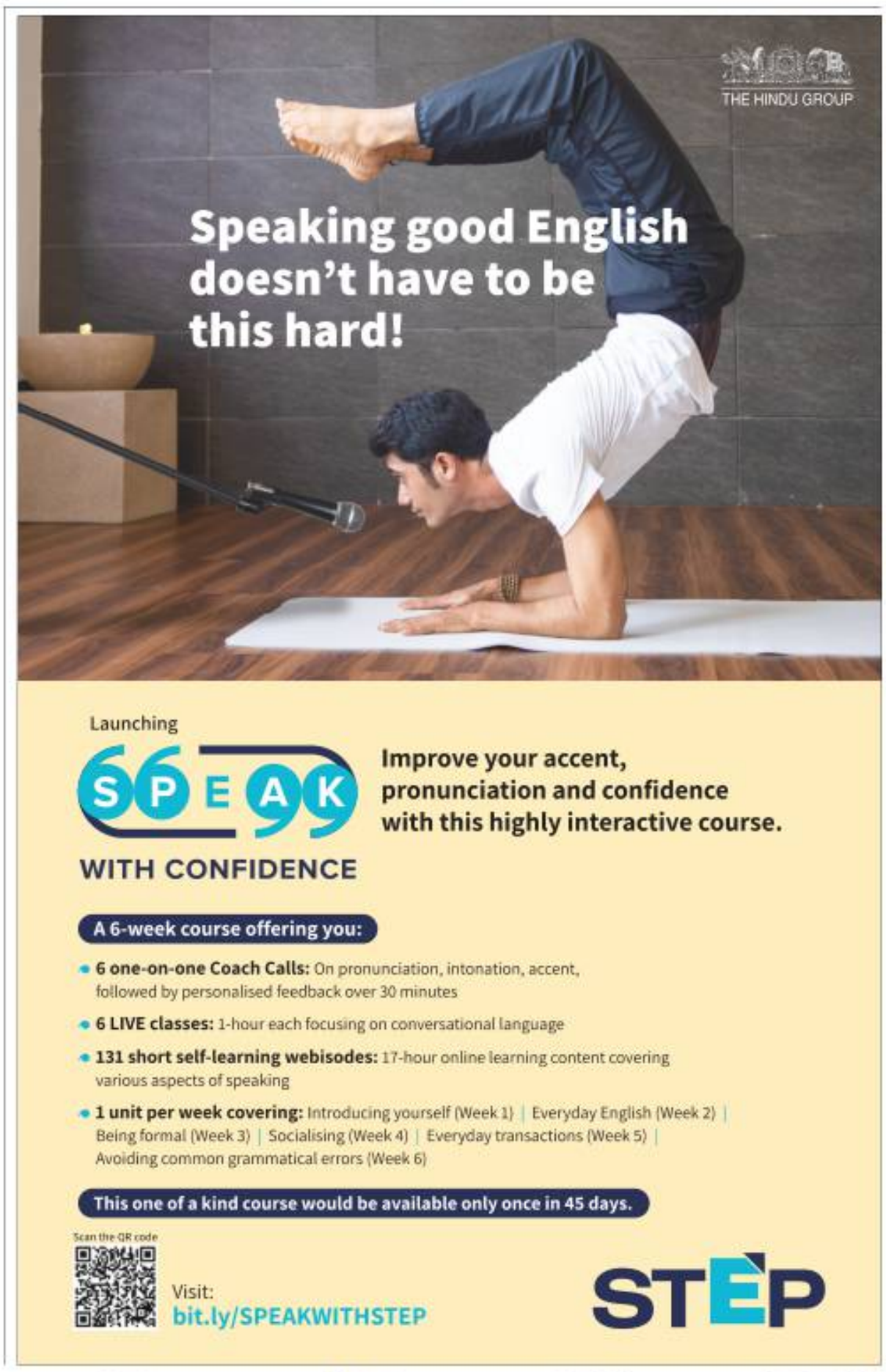
"Xi also noted that he deeply regrets Abe's sudden passing and stands ready to work with Prime Minister Kishida to continue to develop a China-Japan relationship of good-neighbourliness, friendship and cooperation in accordance with the principles of the four China-Japan political documents," the MFA said, adding that Mr. Xi and First Lady Peng Liyuan sent a message of condolences to Akie Abe, wife of the former Prime Minister.

Final journey: A hearse transporting the body of former Japan PM Shinzo Abe arriving at his residence in Tokyo. • AFP

Mr. Xi's message on Saturday followed a day of wide attention on Chinese social media on Mr. Abe's death. Thousands of messages posted by Chinese social media users celebrated the assassination, while one essay that expressed alarm and revulsion at those messages, and pointed to the impact of decades of anti-Japanese state propaganda, went viral before being censored on WeChat.

"The radical nationalism on show has damaged China's image internationally and may complicate Beijing's efforts to improve relations with other countries," the Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* quoted commentators as saying, noting that many on Chinese social media saw Mr. Abe "as representative of a Japanese right-wing in denial about the country's war crimes" and hit out at his visits to the Yasukuni shrine that includes honours for war criminals.

Chinese commentators were divided on the reaction with some defending the messages. Nationalist commentator Sima Nan who has a wide following online said, "If we express happiness, foreigners might say we are ruthless and lack humanitarian spirit... but we should do whatever we want." Others criticised the responses and said they had damaged China's image abroad. "Hatred of the West and polarisation among Chinese over certain issues have existed in China for a long time, but the hostile comments over Abe's death have greatly damaged China's image," one political scientist who did not want to be named told *The Post*. "It is very nasty. The whole world is grieving the death of the assassinated politician."



Ben Wallace out of U.K. PM race

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

A British Cabinet Minister tipped to be a frontrunner in the Conservative Party's leadership race ruled himself out of the contest Saturday.

Defence Minister Ben Wallace said after "careful consideration" and discussion with colleagues and family, he will not be running to replace Boris Johnson as Conservative leader and the country's next Prime Minister. Mr. Wallace was seen by some as the favourite choice among Conservative party members following Mr. Johnson's resignation.

Syria's Assad attends Id prayers in former rebel bastion of Aleppo

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DAMASCUS

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Saturday took part in Id-ul-Azha prayers on the second day of his first visit to former rebel-stronghold Aleppo in over a decade, state media reported.

Mr. Assad began the highly symbolic visit on Friday to Syria's second city, formerly held by rebels and jihadists before it was recaptured in 2016 with crucial Russian backing, marking a major turning point in the country's 11-year war.

"President Bashar al-Assad on Saturday performed Id-ul-Azha prayer at Sahabiy Abdallah bin Abbas mosque in Aleppo city," state news agency SANA reported.

Symbolic visit: President Bashar al-Assad, centre, attending the Id-ul-Azha prayer at an Aleppo mosque on Saturday. • AFP

The news agency also released a message in which Mr. Assad wished the people of Syria and soldiers in the military a happy Id.

Much of Aleppo was disfigured by the conflict, including its historic Old City, where Mr. Assad and his family were pictured walking near the Grand Umayyad mosque on Friday.

SNAPSHOTS

EPA defanged
The U.S. Supreme Court has prohibited the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from crafting regulations to drive the country's power industry away from coal and towards cleaner energy sources. The ruling could make it much harder for the U.S. to curb greenhouse gases as promised under the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.

Muon magnetism
Last year, an experiment suggested that the muon had inexplicably strong magnetism, possibly breaking a decades-long streak of victories for the standard model. Now, revised calculations by several groups suggest that the theory's prediction of muon magnetism might not be too far from the experimental prediction after all.

Food carbon footprint
The transport of food accounts for nearly one-fifth of the carbon emissions in the food system — more than seven times the amount previously estimated. In 2017, the domestic and international movement of food added emissions equivalent to 3 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Wealthy nations were responsible for generating nearly half of all emissions.

Polio threat
U.K. health officials are urging people to get vaccinated against polio, after the virus made a rare appearance in London last month. A poliovirus strain was detected during routine surveillance of wastewater in February. The mutated version of the same strain was picked up again in the following months, suggesting that the virus has spread between people.

Study finds three asymptomatic monkeypox cases

The monkeypox viral loads were similar immaterial of whether people showed symptoms or not

R. PRASAD

Monkeypox is transmitted by close contact with people who have symptomatic infection, and all those infected are assumed to show symptoms. But a recent study has found that people can be infected with monkeypox without showing any of the typical or atypical symptoms. The preprint has been posted in *medrXiv* server, which is yet to be peer-reviewed.

The study found three men tested positive for monkeypox but have no symptoms whatsoever. "All three men denied having had any symptoms in the weeks before and after the sample was taken. None of them reported exposure to a diagnosed monkeypox case, nor did any of their contacts develop clinical monkeypox," the preprint notes.

Symptoms assumed

Similar to smallpox, everyone who is infected with monkeypox is expected to develop symptoms, and the virus is considered to spread through close contact with people who show symptoms. Since every individual infected with monkeypox is assumed to develop symptoms, and since close contact is most often needed for the virus to spread, it is considered that staying away from infected people and maintaining simple hygienic measures can halt the spread of monkeypox virus, as observed in several outbreaks in endemic regions.

But asymptomatic transmission can change and challenge the efforts to contain the monkeypox outbreak, which till July 4 has been reported in 6,027 people across 59 countries, including those in endemic countries in Africa.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the "extent to which asymptomatic infection may occur is unknown".

The researchers retrospectively screened 224 clinical samples collected for sexually transmitted infection (gonorrhea or chlamydia) throughout the month of May 2022 with a monkeypox-specific PCR. And they found evidence of asymptomatic monkeypox virus infection in three individuals. They tested anorectal and/or oropharyngeal samples collected from 224 people at the HIV/STI clinic of the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium.

All the three men who tested positive for monkeypox were informed about their diagnosis and recalled to the clinic for additional case investigation and contact tracing. Follow-up samples were collected from all three men when they were recalled to the clinic. The repeat samples collected 21-27 days later were all negative.

At the time they were recalled to the clinic, none of them showed signs or symptoms of monkeypox and all denied having noticed any symptoms during the two months prior or three weeks after initial sampling, the authors write. All three men had condomless sexual intercourse with at least one male partner within a few days to one month before the sampling.

The authors note that one of the three men who tested positive for monkeypox and was asymptomatic predated the first detected symptomatic case in Belgium by several days. There was no epidemiological link to any other monkeypox case, nor did he report international travel or participation in mass gatherings.

"This may indicate that monkeypox virus circulated among asymptomatic individuals in Belgium before the outbreak was detected," they write.

The researchers also note that the cycle threshold (Ct) values in anorectal samples taken from the asymptomatic men were "similar or lower than those in samples taken from typical monkeypox skin lesions". Based on the lower Ct values of anorectal samples, the researchers note that the "anorectal mucosa of asymptomatic cases may be as infectious as skin lesions of symptomatic cases".

Similar viral loads

The anorectal cycle threshold values of symptomatic cases were in the same range as those who did not show symptoms. This, according to the authors, suggests similar viral loads immaterial of whether they showed symptoms or not. "This would support the hypothesis that monkeypox virus can be transmitted via anal sex, even in the absence of symptoms," they write.

They also add, "It is possible that in the current outbreak in non-endemic settings, asymptomatic carriership plays a more substantial role in virus transmission... In the current outbreak, the skin eruption often remains localised at the site of inoculation, and the mode of transmission seems to be sexual. In this case, asymptomatic carriership, especially with high viral loads in the anal mucosa, could, therefore, be a significant driver of transmission."

Unnoticed skin lesions

While they state that transmission of the virus in the absence of noticeable symptoms might explain why self-isolation at symptom onset has been insufficient to halt the epidemic thus far, they caution that the three men may not have been completely free of symptoms at first presentation when samples were collected. This is because no clinical examination was conducted then and no symptoms were reported then due to recall bias or because the small skin lesions went unnoticed.

But more studies are needed to confirm or refute the findings of these researchers. Meanwhile, more efforts should be directed at identifying asymptomatic cases through increased contact tracing, and screening high risk populations, they say.

Curious case of asymptomatic monkeypox infection

Retrospective testing at a sexual health clinic in Belgium finds three men positive for monkeypox but without symptoms

- Monkeypox is considered to be transmitted by close contact with people who have symptomatic infection
- But the study found three men tested positive for monkeypox without any overt symptoms
- None of them reported exposure to a diagnosed monkeypox case nor did any of their contacts develop clinical monkeypox
- All three men had condomless sexual intercourse with at least one male partner within a few days to one month before sampling
- The cycle threshold (Ct) values in anorectal samples taken from the asymptomatic men were similar or lower than the samples taken from typical monkeypox skin lesions
- The lower Ct values suggest that anorectal mucosa of asymptomatic cases may be as infectious as skin lesions of symptomatic cases
- Immaterial of whether people showed symptoms or not, the viral loads were comparable
- This supports the hypothesis that monkeypox virus can be transmitted via anal sex, even in the absence of symptoms

More evidence: More studies may be needed to confirm or refute the findings of the study

Ancient jawbone dug up in Spain's Burgos city

The finding could help understand Europe's earliest human civilisation

REUTERS

Archaeologists in Spain said on Friday that they had dug up an ancient jawbone that could help them look into the face of some of the earliest human ancestors in Europe.

The surprise find, which could be about 1.4 million years old, could also give vital clues to the evolution of the human face over the millennia, the team from the Atapuerca Foundation said in a statement.

Entering the history

"The first week of July 2022 will enter the history of human evolution," the team said in a statement.

The fossilised fragment of an upper jaw and cheekbone was found near caves in the Atapuerca Mountains in northern Spain's Burgos province, the site of other ancient remains.

The scientists said they were still working on identifying the specific kind of human ancestor and determining the bone's age.

The fossil belongs to one of the first populations that arrived in Europe. • REUTERS

"We have to continue our research for about at least a year... This takes lots of time," José María Bermúdez de Castro, one of the team's coordinators, told presspersons.

Important finding

"What we can say is that we have found a fossil that's very important and interesting that belongs to one of the first populations that arrived in Europe."

Easing learning for children with ASD using robots

The triadic interaction between educator, learner and robot in this pilot study showed promise

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Teaching children with Autism Spectrum Disorder poses many challenges for special educators working in this area. One of these challenges is that the interventions needed are highly specific to each child. In a class, therefore, when handling more than one child, the teacher may benefit from support offered by robotic assistants – the commercially available robots. There is a need to research this aspect and provide cost-effective solutions.

This is the area of work in a pilot study carried out in the lab of Chiranjib Bhattacharya of Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, with the support of Jayashree Ramesh of the Academy for Severe Handicaps and Autism (ASHA), Bengaluru. Dr. Bhattacharya and his team studied the use of toy robots – small in size and not necessarily humanoid – in assisting learning for children with autism spectrum disorder. Their work and results have been published in a paper in *2021 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*.

AI and learners

With the aim of understanding the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and toys in the learning process of children with neurodevelopmental challenges, the team approached ASHA, for a collaboration. "The founder, Ms. Jayashree Ramesh, was very supportive. She helped us identify which children to work with, the challenges to target and what their education is like," says Nabanita Paul, a PhD student with Chiranjib Bhattacharya and one of the first authors of the paper.

One part of the work was to study the effectiveness of interventions using a toy robot, Cozmo; the other part was to try and use drones to help children with motivational issues – for instance, motivating them to exercise if they were not inclined per se to do so (for instance, with hypotonia).

They started the experiments with Cozmo in 2019. In 2020, due to the lockdown, they had to try online experiments. They started with seven children to be taught, and at the end of the experiments, they had to manage with four children.

The toy robot, Cozmo, would help to assist learning in children. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The goals were threefold – what it takes to understand the interaction between the special educator, child and robot; focus on helping not only the child but also the special educator In reducing their workload; designing the interactions and evaluation metrics.

The interventions were designed to be in keeping with the Individualised Education Plan (IEP) that was in place for each child, comprising not only formal education goals but also special needs such as social communication or motor skills. As an example of an IEP, there could be a simple goal, Ms. Paul explains, "If you want to make a drawing and you need a pencil, you need to ask, 'please give me a pencil'. This could be a challenge for these children." This kind of functional communication can include asking for things, asking for help, asking to use the washroom, etc.

Lesson plan

So the lessons were designed with this kind of outcome in mind. One lesson was "Talk to Me" where the child and the robot would talk to each other and practice self-introduction questions. "For example, Cozmo would ask the child, 'what is your name?' If the child did not respond, the special educator would prompt the child, or the robot would also prompt the child, saying, 'I didn't hear you'," says Ms. Paul. "If the child answered partially or incorrectly, the robot would make a little jig or show excitement. The special educator would prompt the child," she adds.

To estimate their success, the researchers would measure, for example, the number of prompts given by the special educator in the presence and absence of the robot Cozmo.

Since this was a pilot study, they had just five participants. "Some of the children showed great interest in the robot sessions, they even started small spontaneous conversations with me – a total stranger," says Ms. Paul.

Award and citation

The work has already seen the limelight, and Ms. Paul has won the Murthy Govindaraju "Women in Computer Science" endowment award 2022, which comprises a cash prize of ₹1,00,000 and a citation to the awardee. The award has been instituted by Madhukar C. Govindaraju, alumnus of IISc, and his wife, Chaya Murthy Govindaraju, to promote excellence of women in computer science and to advance the computer science area among young professionals, especially women students.

Exercise keeps your brain young

Exercise reduces the risk of debilitating conditions such as Alzheimer's disease

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

The human brain reaches adult size by the age of 10; but its wiring and its abilities continue to change through a lifetime.

After the age of 40, the brain begins to shrink in volume. Less blood flows through the brain, and hormone and neurotransmitter levels go down. Ageing leads to slowing down in some functions such as the learning of new tasks.

Learning requires the formation of new connections in the brain, a property called neuroplasticity. Your brain is a dynamic entity that is constantly remodelling itself in response to new experiences.

Some brain structures show greater plasticity and rewiring than others. Ageing affects them more extensively than others. One such structure is the hippocampus. Located between the ears, it plays a key role in the formation and consolidation of new and lasting memories, and thus of learning and experience. It also creates mental maps of your surroundings, enabling you to find your way home.

Experiments have shown that the brains of older mice have fewer connections, called synapses, between their nerve cells and perform poorly in finding their way through mazes – indicating deficiencies in spatial learning.

MRI studies on the brains of London taxi drivers show that they have an enlarged hippocampus – the city's roads have been 'mapped' in the hippocampus, and this 'map' readily expands as experience is gained.

Human studies in this area, however, are confounded by large differences between individuals – some "Super Agers" can even compete with much younger people in memory tests.

Natural: The aging process is often, but not always, accompanied by cognitive decline. • GETTY IMAGES

Brain injuries

The brain's capacity for rewiring and change is seen in the case of brain injuries resulting from trauma or from a stroke. A large number of brain cells die in such events, leading to a loss of some abilities. Yet over time, the brain remodels itself, leading to a full or partial restoration of lost abilities. This can be accelerated by medications, stem cell therapy and psychological interventions.

The aging process is often, but not always, accompanied by cognitive decline. Along with memory, executive functions may be impaired – these include the ability to plan and the ability to perform two or more tasks simultaneously.

These changes are a consequence of a reduced ability of the brain to rewire itself, of reduced neuroplasticity. But it is possible to change behavioral and lifestyle patterns to enhance the brain's ability to adapt, and to function like a younger brain.

Regular exercise and sensible dietary choices are key elements in keeping your brain young, as is an aptitude for learning (mastering a new language, or musical instrument).

Benefits of exercise

In aging individuals, exercise reduces the risk from systemic disorders such as heart ailments and high blood pressure. Such disorders elevate the risk of dementia. Thus, exercise reduces the risk of dementia and debilitating conditions such as Alzheimer's disease.

Regular exercise also helps you lose weight or at least stop gaining weight or regaining lost weight. The probability of occurrence of cancers of the lung, stomach, colon and bladder is lowered. Exercising individuals are less prone to anxiety and depression.

A significant benefit of exercise in older adults is the lowered risk of falls, and of fall-related injuries. Exercise enhances the stability of your posture, both while standing and when you are in motion, as your brain is being trained over and over to quickly respond to disturbances in your balance (Rogge et al., *Neuropsychologia*, 2019).

What type of exercise is better? Comparing the results from six months of aerobic endurance training (cycling indoors) with stretching/coordination training show us that in the 40-56 age group, both these activities lead to improvement in memory relative to sedentary individuals. These activities will of course improve cardiovascular fitness, and participants in the study, who showed the most improvement in their cardiovascular fitness, also had the best improvements in memory. Reverting to lethargy and lowering one's fitness level negates the gains in memory functions (Hötting and Röder, *Neurosci. Behav. Rev*, 2013).

Cognitive training, meaning exercising your brain, helps your brain to stay flexible. Combining this with physical exercise shows even better results in improving the cognitive abilities of older people.

The amount of exercise required is another question that older people may worry about.

Health and cognitive parameters in older individuals are often evaluated before and after a 10-minute routine involving some jogging and some walking, "enough to cause a mild sweat but not cause fatigue". For those above 65, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends 30 minutes of brisk walking five or more times a week.

dbala@hyei.org

Question Corner

Common toads

Are common toads solely terrestrial?

Until now, common toads were thought to be terrestrial. The highest toad in this study was found three metres up a tree – and scientists say there is a chance the toads might be venturing even higher.

This is the first time that the tree climbing potential of amphibians has been investigated at a national scale (*PLOS ONE*).

The research was led by the University of Cambridge and Froglife, and supported by wildlife charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES).

Common toads are regarded as typical terrestrial amphibians, which spend their time both on land and in water during breeding. To date, there have only been a handful of documented sightings of common toads in trees in the U.K. Consequently, common toads and U.K. amphibians in general have never been surveyed for in trees. Over 50 common toads were found during surveys of hazel dormouse nest boxes (located 1.5m above ground) and tree cavities usually used by bats, says press release.

Many of the cavities were small or not visible from the ground, so it is unclear how toads are finding them and how difficult it is for toads to climb particular trees.

Toads were not found in boxes or tree holes with other species, however they were found using old nests made by dormice and even birds.

While 50 records is not a huge number, it suggests that toads spend more time in trees than was previously thought. The discovery suggests that tree cavities might represent an even more important ecological feature than conservationists previously thought.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Altering green laws

Will new penalties on environment violations soften the blow for air, water and land polluters?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: On July 1, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, put out a note, proposing amendments in the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The EPA establishes the "framework for studying, planning, and implementing long-term requirements of environmental safety and laying down a system of speedy and adequate response to situations threatening the environment." In its note, the Environment Ministry has proposed legislation which scales down punishment for some environmental violations. Stakeholders – citizens, State governments, Union Territories and others concerned – have till July 21 to respond with suggestions. Besides changes in the EPA, the Ministry, in a set of notifications, also proposed amendments to three other legislations.

What are the Environment Ministry's proposed amendments?

■ The Environment Ministry has proposed amendments in four key legislations: The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Public Liability Insurance (PLI) Act, 1991. These are the cornerstone environmental laws that led to the setting up of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), empowering it to take action against individuals and corporate bodies who pollute air, water and land. The clutch of laws currently empowers the CPCB to either shut down a polluting industrial body or imprison executives of an organisation found to be environmental violators.

The Environment Ministry said it had received "suggestions" to decriminalise existing provisions of the EPA to weed out "fear of imprisonment for simple violations." With a set of amendments, the Environment Ministry proposes to modify provisions of the Environment Protection Act (EPA), by replacing clauses that provides for imprisonment with ones that only requires violators to pay a fine. These, however, don't apply to violations that cause grave injury or loss of life.

The Environment Ministry hasn't laid out a clear rationale on why amendments are necessary. But the history of environmental action and its success in India shows that the current laws have had limited effectiveness

How will violators be punished?

■ The EPA currently says that violators face imprisonment up to five years or a fine up to ₹1 lakh or both. If the violations continue, an additional fine of up to ₹5,000 for every day during which such failure or contravention continues after the conviction may be be levied. There's also a provision for the jail term to extend to seven years.

The changes proposed include the appointment of an 'adjudication officer' who will decide on the penalty in cases of environmental violations such as reports not being submitted or information not provided when demanded. Funds collected as penalties would be accrued in an "Environmental Protection Fund." In case of contraventions of the Act, the penalties could extend to anywhere from five lakh to five crore, the proposal notes, but the clause on provision of a jail term for the first default has been sought to be removed.

Do these amendments defang environment laws?

■ The Environment Ministry hasn't laid out a clear rationale on why these amendments were necessary. However, the history of environmental action and its success in India shows that the current laws have had limited effectiveness. An analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment found that Indian courts took between 9-33 years to clear a backlog of cases for environmental violations.

Beginning 2018, close to 45,000 cases were pending for trial and another 35,000 cases were added in that year. More than 90% of the cases were pending for trial in five of the seven environment laws.

Ritwick Dutta, lawyer and founder of the Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment, said that myriad challenges dogged the process of bringing violators to book. For instance, to flag pollution from an industrial unit would mean filing a complaint with the court of the concerned district magistrate, or furnishing evidence to the CPCB which would again have to approach the same institution. This would then box the crime in the category of 'criminal complaints' that would have to follow a set procedure and was extremely time-consuming. In most cases, it was practically impossible to hold a specific individual in an organisation responsible for a specific crime given the burden of proof required. No top executive in India, said Dutta, had gone to jail for an environmental crime. This was different from cases of crimes such as poaching, or stealing forest produce, where there was always a definite offender who could be apprehended and dealt with by the police. The new amendments, thus, potentially made a certain category of crimes 'civil crimes' making it easier to hold organisations accountable.

Environmentalist Vikrant Tongad said that the existing clause of imprisonment was to deter violators and not to imprison them. The proposed penalties were too meagre and the amendments opened up avenues for "large scale corruption" as the 'Adjudication Officers' could be "arbitrary" in their decision-making.

Who is responsible for the Manipur landslide?

Why are experts calling it a man-made disaster? What is the way out for the rail project?

RAHUL KARMAKAR

The story so far: Landslides have killed at least 125 people across four north-eastern States this year after the onset of rainfall in April. Almost half of them – 49 confirmed and 12 others missing with little chance of survival – died working on a railway project at the Tupul substation in Makhuam village of Manipur's Noney district on June 30. The Railways have reportedly blamed jhum or shifting or slash-and-burn cultivation on hill slopes for the tragedy, sparking debates on the tendency to overlook geological challenges and not factor in climate change while executing major developmental projects.

What is the Jiribam-Imphal railway?

■ Sanctioned in February 2005 as a national project, the 110.625 km Jiribam-Imphal line is considered a vital segment of the Trans-Asian Railway envisaged as an integrated freight railway network across Europe and Asia. The broad-gauge project entails connecting Manipur's Jiribam, a town on the border with Assam, and State capital Imphal mostly across the fragile hills of Noney district, is expected to reduce the travel time from the existing 10-12 hours to three hours. More than 65% of this project with an anticipated cost of ₹14,322.79 crore has been completed and goods trains reached the Khongsang railway station, 68.605 km from Jiribam, in March. The railways have tagged this project, expected to be functional by December 2023, as its most ambitious and challenging endeavour. The project involves 46 tunnels with a total length of 61.398 km, 16 road overbridges and under-bridges, and 140 major and minor rail bridges. Tunnel number 12 on this line is India's longest railway tunnel at 11.55 km and one of the rail bridges near Noney is being built at a pier height of 141 metres, the world's tallest.

Why are most landslide victims combatants?

■ India's northeast comprising Manipur and seven other States is the sixth most earthquake-prone belt in the world. The geologically young hills of the region are landslide-prone and heavy rains invariably allow only a working season of six months, somewhat explaining the delay in the Jiribam-Imphal project. The writ of extremist groups also affected the project until the 107 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) of the 11 Gorkha Rifles was entrusted in 2019 with protecting the stretch. A massive landslide triggered by heavy rainfall hit the location of the unit at the Tupul railway yard construction camp on early June 30 morning and the sliding debris blocked the Ijei River temporarily, creating a dam-like situation. According to Haulianlal Guite, Noney's Deputy Commissioner, 29 of the 49 confirmed dead were combatants of the 107 Territorial Army while 15 were engaged by private firms executing the project and two were railway employees. Movement on the Jiribam-Imphal national highway has also been affected by a series of landslips, an annual affair.

What caused the Tupul landslide?

■ The Railways have apparently blamed two successive disasters along project sites in the northeast on the traditional practice of jhum or shifting cultivation. The first was the Lumding-Silchar railway, which was breached at 58 locations in May and the second was the Jiribam-Imphal section. Jhum is practised on hill slopes by clearing vegetation. Northeast Frontier Railway officials have been quoted as stating that their pleas to the State governments to stop jhum cultivation near railway formations often go unheard. Amba Jamir, executive director of Sustainable Development Forum Nagaland, said attributing the Noney landslide to jhum was unfortunate as shifting cultivation and landslides have always been a feature in the northeast, a Himalayan region. "There are also established State rules that forbid jhum in given areas and it is the responsibility of the administration to ensure that such rules are enforced," he said. "But people tend to forget or not question the development models being implemented in such fragile hill or mountain ecosystems. Most disasters are man-made as the designs are not suited to the geology," he said. Others said projects do not factor in climate change, which has been causing short bursts of heavy rainfall over a small area instead of moderate showers spread over a larger area.

Local NGOs say the Railways should have learnt from the Lumding-Silchar project experience to minimise disasters in the equally vulnerable Jiribam-Imphal sector. Researchers have advised the Railways to consult local people before undertaking development projects

How can disasters be averted?

■ Researchers have advised the Railways and the government to consult local people for sustainable projects instead of bulldozing or drilling through the hills and leaving them at the mercy of the forces of nature. Local NGOs in Noney said the Railways should have learnt lessons from the Lumding-Silchar project experience to minimise disasters in the equally vulnerable Jiribam-Imphal sector. An audit report in 2009 and a Commissioner of Railway Safety report in 2015 had faulted the Lumding-Silchar broad-gauge project for having been executed without adequate geotechnical investigation of the soil. Geologists and advocates of sustainable development say lessons could be learnt from the extensive rain-induced damage to the Lumding-Silchar track and adopt structural measures for stabilisation and control of landslides.

In their Disaster Management Plan of 2017, the Manipur Public Works Department said landslides and mudslides are quite common in the hilly State. "Even at present, mudslides due to the construction of the Jiribam-Tupul Railway line have affected many families in Tamenglong district (Noney was carved out of it)," it said. According to the Geological Survey of India (GSI), disasters and human fatalities can be minimised if its national landslide susceptibility mapping is integrated with infrastructure development and planning in hilly or mountainous terrain. "In India, the mountainous and hilly areas in 16 States and in two Union Territories in the Himalayan region, sub-Himalayan parts of the northeast and in the Western Ghats are landslide-prone. These areas comprise about 12.6% or 4.2 lakh sq. km of India's landmass spreading over 159 districts," the GSI said after documenting 20 landslides in four north-eastern States in 2020. It also said geology, road and railway projects, and unplanned quarrying and construction can turn these landslide-prone areas fatal. The GSI advised structural and non-structural measures for mitigating or preventing landslides. The structural measures involve engineering works for stabilisation and control of landslides while non-structural measures emphasise the identification and avoidance of landslide-prone areas through monitoring and warning systems.

Successes of structural measures include Varunabhat in Uttarkashi, Tindharia in West Bengal's Darjeeling district and some hydroelectric projects under construction. Nainital in Uttarakhand and Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu are the only two places in India where non-structural measures have been successfully implemented through landslide hazard zoning information, the GSI said.

What is causing a surge in COVID-19 cases?

Which sub-lineages of the Omicron variant are doing the rounds? Do vaccinations protect against severe disease?

R. PRASAD

The story so far: Since early June, there has been a steady increase in the number of fresh daily COVID-19 infections, with June 29 marking a new high of 18,467 cases. But on July 6, the daily fresh infections witnessed a further bump with 18,506 fresh infections. After the third wave peaked in end-January 2022, the number of daily cases had dropped and held steady at a very low level till it began increasing in early June. On July 9, the active caseload as of 9:00 am was more than 1,25,000 with the weekly test positivity rate being 3.86%.

Why has there been a rise in daily infections?

■ The BA.2 Omicron sub-lineage is still the dominant strain in India. However, many States have reported the presence of BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron sub-lineage variants. While the BA.2 Omicron variant itself spreads quickly, the BA.4 and BA.5 are even more transmissible than BA.2. Also, the BA.4 and BA.5 sub-lineages have an even better ability to evade the immune system and cause infection, which is leading to an increase in cases not only in India but in several countries. In its weekly epidemiological update, the World Health Organization (WHO) on July 6 said that for the week of June 27 to July 3, 2022, "over 4.6 million cases were reported, a figure similar to that of the previous week". But the number of new infections recorded may not reflect the true spread of the virus as "several countries have been progressively changing COVID-19 testing strategies, resulting in lower overall numbers of tests performed and consequently lower numbers of cases detected," the WHO cautioned.

In addition to BA.4 and BA.5, India and about half-a-dozen other countries have reported BA.2.75, which is a new sub-lineage of Omicron. The spike protein of BA.2.75 carries nine mutations and the mutations are seen on both the N-terminal domain and the receptor binding domain. Whether the nine mutations will further increase the transmissible nature of BA.2.75 compared to BA.5 and BA.2 remains to be seen. One mutation (G446S) can contribute to significant immune escape, which could mean that reinfections and breakthrough infections could drive the spread of BA.2.75, says Dr. Vinod Scaria, a senior scientist at the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB). The rapid increase in BA.2.75 cases in India in recent weeks "suggest that it might have a growth advantage," he tweeted.

It is not clear what percentage of fresh cases is caused by BA.4, BA.5 and BA.2.75. But the sudden increase in daily cases after the third wave peaked in end-January 2022 clearly suggests that a new sub-lineage of the Omicron is driving this increase.

Due diligence: A healthcare worker conducts a swab test on a vendor as coronavirus cases rise countrywide. • PTI

Why haven't the high vaccination coverage and natural infection helped to stop re-infection?

■ Currently available vaccines have a higher protective effect against hospitalisation, preventing severe disease, and even death. They have very low protective effect against an infection, particularly from the Omicron sub-lineages. Thus a person who is fully vaccinated and even received a booster shot is vulnerable to get a breakthrough infection. In general, soon after a booster shot, the protective effect against breakthrough infection is modest. But with the Omicron variants showing increasing ability to evade the neutralising antibodies, a recently administered booster shot has an even lower protective effect against breakthrough infection.

Natural infection too has been found to be less protective against re-infection by the Omicron sub-lineages. This is again due to the higher immune escape capability of the Omicron sub-lineages. It has been found that infection with BA.2 does not protect from infection caused by the BA.4 or BA.5 variant. For the same reason, it is likely that infection with BA.5 may not protect against BA.2.75. However, hard evidence to support this is not yet available.

Health experts say the reason why BA.2 infection does not offer protection against BA.4 or BA.5 is because of the higher ability of BA.4 and BA.5 to evade the neutralising antibodies caused by a previous infection. So a person infected with BA.2 can still get reinfected with BA.4 or BA.5

Hybrid immunity caused by vaccination and infection was generally seen to offer slightly better protection against infection. But with the Omicron sub-lineages, even hybrid immunity offers no advantage in terms of protecting against re-infections.

How effective are full vaccination, a booster shot and natural infection against severe disease?

■ The Omicron variants have so far not turned out to be lethal or causing severe disease and deaths. Since virus transmission takes place before disease onset, the selection pressure faced by the virus is for enhanced transmissibility and not for disease severity. A new variant of concern may be less or more lethal than the current ones but always more transmissible than the currently seen variants. That said, a new variant that is not only extremely transmissible but also more lethal can also arise.

Natural infection, full vaccination with two doses of any COVID vaccine and hybrid immunity greatly reduces the risk of severe disease and death, but its protective effect beyond one year has not yet been studied. But ground evidence suggests that full vaccination protects against severe disease and deaths. A booster shot particularly for the vulnerable population offers greater protection against severe disease. It is therefore advisable that all vulnerable people receive a booster shot as early as possible.

All Omicron sub-lineages have extremely high transmissibility. However, regular and consistent use of good quality face masks can greatly reduce the chances of getting infected

What is the best way to prevent fresh infection?

■ While all Omicron sub-lineages have extremely high transmissibility, regular and consistent use of good quality face masks together with avoiding crowded places, particularly closed spaces with poor ventilation, can greatly reduce the chances of getting infected.

G-20

A multilateral platform in a polarised world

Faced with challenges from the post-pandemic economic slump to Russia's aggression, the grouping, unlike in the past, finds itself in a difficult situation amid growing disunity

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

SUHASINI HAIDAR

In a world where multilateralism appears to be gasping for breath, the G-20 Foreign Minister's meeting in Bali dealt a few more blows. "We cannot deny that it has become more difficult for the world to sit together," said Retno Marsudi, Indonesian Foreign Minister who hosted the meeting this week, even as G-7 countries skipped a welcome reception and concert to protest the presence of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. Mr. Lavrov walked out of one meeting over comments made by Western countries about the war in Ukraine, and another, just before the Ukrainian Foreign Minister, a special invitee to the session on food security, began to speak.

It seems the road between the Foreign Ministers' meeting, expected to be followed by an equally acrimonious G-20 Finance Ministers' meeting on July 15-16, which will finalise the agenda, can only lead to an even more contentious G-20 summit four months later, on November 15-16, where Russian President Vladimir Putin has been invited and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is expected to address the gathering as a special invitee. The U.S. has already demanded Mr. Putin be disinvited, or U.S. and European countries would boycott his address. Sensing the difficulties, Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who attended the G-7 summit in Germany as a special invitee, also travelled to Kyiv and Moscow last month, and met with both leaders in the hope of keeping the G-20 together, as it faces what is probably its greatest organisational challenge in 23 years of its existence. India, which will assume the Presidency of the G-20 in December, will have to bear the burden of ensuring the G-20's continued existence in a globally polarised world through 2023.

In many ways, (minus the Russia-Ukraine war), the present moment reflects many of the crises that led to the creation of the G-20 in the first place in 1999. At the time, the geo-economic multilateral order was dominated by the G-8 countries (now the G-7, after the ouster of Russia), and it was clear that they were ineffective in dealing with the Mexican, Asian and Russian Financial Crises of 1997-98.

In Focus

- In the late 1990s, as the existing geo-economic multilateral order was found ineffective in dealing with the Mexican, Asian and Russian financial crises, countries moved towards forming G-20
- A group of developed and emerging economies, including OECD and BRICS, were chosen as a "perfect mix" of the old world and new to create the new grouping
- During the 2007 financial crisis, G-20 members took concerted actions, including boosting spending and lowering trade barriers, to revive economies

Global South

The larger global economic grouping at the time, the 38-member OECD that was created out of the post-World War reconstruction effort, was equally unworkable, and weighted towards the U.S. and Europe. This led to the first G-20 meeting, of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, to look at the world through a more "Global South" perspective.

Two men in particular, Canadian Finance Minister (and later PM) Paul Martin, and U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers were credited with the push for this larger grouping, which they said would move beyond the "denizens of Davos" to people who work in "Detroit and Düsseldorf", referring to manufacturing hubs of the time. Along with economists from the OECD, which remains the G-20's strategic adviser, they chose from a basket of emerging economies (all BRICS countries are in G-20) to create the G-20 as a "perfect mix" of the old world and new, of the first world and the developing world; of the traditional, ageing global elites, and the more populous, bustling and growing economies.

For India, the G-20's challenges come with the prestige of hosting the Summit next year, when global leaders will descend on New Delhi, and meet with PM Narendra Modi

The final list read: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States, along with the European Union. Spain is a permanent invitee, as are several international agencies like the UN, the IMF, ASEAN, the African Union, etc. Some have joked that only 19 countries are actually G-20 members (as the EU is not a country), proving that "finance ministers can't count", but a little-known fact, disclosed by Mr. Martin years later, was that Nigeria was meant to be the "20th" member, and was dropped at the last minute due to political troubles. Today, G-20 members account for 60% of the global population, 75% of global trade and more than 80% of world GDP.

The G-20 has no fixed headquarters, and the secretariat moves by rotation between the countries hosting or assuming Presidency of the grouping each year. The members are divided into five groups (India is in Group 2, along with Russia, South Africa and Turkey). The G-20 agenda that still depends heavily on the guidance of Finance Ministers and central Governors is finalised by a unique system of 'Sherpas', who are special envoys of G-20 leaders. Another feature of the G-20 is 'Troika' meetings, comprising the countries presiding over the G-20 in the past year, present year, and next year. At present, the Troika is made up of Italy, Indonesia and India.

The G-20's next big leap came during the global financial crisis in 2007. It was clearly a time for leadership to step in, and the first G-20 summit was held in 2008 in Washington DC, hosted by U.S. President George W. Bush. Experts saw the G-20 agreements in 2008 and 2009, where the grouping agreed to revive economies with a spending boost worth $4 trillion, lowering trade barriers and implementing economic and governance reforms, as proof that the new grouping could actually work, and even save the global financial system through concerted action.

Global priorities

That enthusiasm didn't last, and the next decade brought with it new challenges, as China's strategic rise, NATO's expansion and Russia's territorial aggression in Georgia and Crimea changed global priorities. Today, the world continues to struggle with sharpening geopolitical rivalries, and a possible dilution of the dollar-based system post-Ukraine sanctions, even as it deals with the new realities of post-COVID economics. Globalisation is no longer a cool word, and multilateral organisations have a credibility crisis as countries around the world pick being 'G-zero' (a term coined by political commentator Ian Bremmer to denote 'Every Nation for Itself') over the G-7, G-20, BRICS, P-5 (UNSC Permanent Members) and others.

For India, the G-20's challenges come with the prestige of hosting the Summit next November, when global leaders will descend on New Delhi, and meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi just months before national elections in 2024. In the past few weeks, India has been more vocal about working with Indonesia to build a consensus for the Bali agenda, and has also begun the process of setting up G-20 structures here. Former NITI Ayog CEO Amitabh Kant has been appointed the PM's G-20 Sherpa, and former Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla will be the G-20 Coordinator. The government plans to hold 100 preparatory meetings in different parts of the country, which led to a controversy over whether the G-20 summit or Ministerial level meetings would be held in Jammu Kashmir.

Amid protests from Pakistan and China, the MEA has clarified that no decisions have been made yet. The G-20 venue is likely to be at Delhi's Pragati Maidan, where the construction of roads, conference halls, hotels and landscaping is under way. The bigger challenges, however, will remain for India to assist Indonesia in protecting the idea of the G-20, and keeping it from fragmentation in the face of geopolitical fissures, where leaders are loath to hear each other speak, or even sit in the same room together.

HRDS

Wading into a controversy

Kerala-based NGO that employed a key smuggling accused is under the scanner

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA

An ongoing controversy over Kerala's diplomatic channel gold smuggling case shifted its focus suddenly to a high-profile non-governmental organisation named Highrange Rural Development Society (HRDS) India when it hired and fired Swapna Suresh (in picture), one of the key accused in the case, within a few months.

At no time in its 25-year history has the HRDS been much under the spotlight than when it hired Ms. Swapna in February this year. Since then, the Thodupuzha-based NGO has frequently been in news.

Many times it denied the allegations that it was a body meant to cover the Sangh Parivar interests. Yet, some of its top functionaries have close links with the Sangh Parivar and the BJP. The circumstances that led to the hiring of Ms. Swapna and the days that followed raised questions about the role of the Sangh in placing her with the HRDS.

With the apparent support of some top Sangh leaders, Ms. Swapna appeared before a magistrate in Kochi and gave a confidential confession directly linking Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his family and a few top bureaucrats and politicians with the gold smuggling case.

"We cannot take this harassment any longer. Different agencies of police are routinely coming and questioning our staff since we gave a job to Swapna. It has begun to affect our functioning," said HRDS chief coordinator Joy Mathew, after sacking Swapna last week. According to him, the HRDS does not have the wherewithal to take on the government agencies.

Tribal development

Headed by its founder-secretary Aji Krishnan and president Atma Nambi, the HRDS says it works for tribal development. With offices in Delhi, Palakkad and Attappady, the HRDS has devised several projects with special focus on tribal development in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Tripura, Assam and Jharkhand. But interestingly, two of its major projects have run into rough weather in the tribal land of Attappady.

Even when there were allegations that the HRDS has more to hide than what it speaks profusely about its multi-crore projects, some of those who associated with and funded it in the initial days have distanced themselves from it apparently over lack of transparency. Former Union Minister K. Krishnakumar, who moved over to the BJP, and the Madhava Warrier Foundation headed by Mumbai-based businessman and a Sangh Parivar sympathiser Madhava Warrier are some of them.

The huge amount of funds that the HRDS handles for its projects makes it different from other NGOs that function in tribal areas. For a housing project named Sadhgraha, the HRDS has earmarked a whopping ₹53,015.29 crore. For a medicinal plants cultivation project titled 'Karshaka', it has earmarked ₹270 crore. But both projects brought the HRDS under the scanner in Attappady. An Assembly subcommittee is currently investigating the role of the NGO in an alleged land grabbing scandal.

Under the ambitious Karshaka project the NGO tried to procure 5,000 acres of tribal land on lease for 30 years. Some former bureaucrats, including R. Ramachandran Nair and his Vidyadhiraja Vidya Samajam, were in the thick of the controversy as the tribes-people raised a hue and cry against the land-grabbing mafia of Attappady.

"It's just the tip of the iceberg. People don't know what is happening in the name of tribal development in Attappady. Some big names are involved in the land-grab deals. We hope the Assembly inquiry committee will bring to light the shady deals that could have erased the tribal lands of Attappady forever," said N. Padmanabhan, a former journalist and chairman of the Jananeethi, a civil society organisation.

The 100-odd low-cost houses constructed by the HRDS in Attappady for the tribes-people under the ambitious Sadhgraha project have gone abegging. The 370-sq. ft houses made of fibre cement panels and corrugated sheets cost ₹5 lakh each. But the civic bodies in Attappady objected to them as they were built without the consent of the Tribal Development Department. Politics may be behind the denial of permission, but the multi-crore project of the HRDS has grounded in the tribal land that the NGO has made its home.

JENS STOLTENBERG

NATO's top civil servant

The Secretary-General is leading the alliance through challenging times

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

G. SAMPATH

There is a strange symmetry to Jens Stoltenberg's stint as Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). When he took charge in October 2014, it was in the middle of a 'Ukraine crisis' – Russia had annexed Crimea and NATO was under pressure to come up with a response. Mr. Stoltenberg's tenure was supposed to end this year, in October. Norway had even announced, in February, that the 63-year-old – a two-time Prime Minister who has also served as Finance and Industry Ministers – would be its next Central Bank Governor. But in the same month, a bigger Ukraine crisis flared up: Russia invaded Ukraine.

NATO decided that Mr. Stoltenberg was the best man for the crisis on hand, and extended his tenure to 2023. Evidently, Mr. Stoltenberg, the son of a former Defence and Foreign Minister, is an international politician the trans-Atlantic elite are comfortable with.

But it was not always the case. When news broke in 2014 that Mr. Stoltenberg would be NATO's next Secretary General, the *Wall Street Journal* took issue with his "early radicalism", complaining that he had "joined a 1995 bicycle rally from Oslo to Paris to protest French nuclear weapons testing", and noted with concern that "his radical notions have been merely diluted with age – but not altogether discarded." As it turned out, its concerns were misplaced.

Mr. Stoltenberg's career is a story of early radicalism steadily supplanted by mature ambition. As a teenager, he flung rocks at the American Embassy to protest against the Vietnam War. As head of the Labor Party's youth wing, he had endorsed its then stand that Norway should leave NATO.

But with the traditional left-wing party morphing into 'New Labour', Mr. Stoltenberg, as its chief, embraced both NATO and neoliberal policies of the Blairite kind. As Prime Minister, he pushed through the most ambitious privatisation programme Norway had ever seen. It was also under his premiership that Norway contributed troops to NATO's Afghanistan campaign, and aircraft for NATO's military intervention in Libya.

In 2010, he showcased his diplomatic skills by negotiating a landmark treaty with Russia that ended a 40-year dispute over maritime borders. In 2011, in the aftermath of the Breivik massacre in which 77 people were killed by a far-right fanatic, he proclaimed that Norway's response would be "more democracy, more openness, and more humanity, but never naivety".

His familiarity with NATO military campaigns, experience as Premier of a nation that is a NATO co-founder, his diplomatic skills, experience in negotiating with Russia, as well as his grounding in neoliberal economics all seemed to have worked in his favour as he got picked for the top civilian job in NATO.

Rough years

These skills came in handy during the rough years (for NATO) of the Trump Presidency, when Mr. Stoltenberg resorted to some deft financial window-dressing to show steady increases in European contributions.

The biggest legacy of Gen. Stoltenberg's tenure, however, could be the humanitarian cost of holding fast to a policy that some of the West's own strategic experts consider misconceived: NATO's relentless expansionism.

NATO's track record under Mr. Stoltenberg indicates that it has been more successful as a tool to consolidate America's geo-political footprint in Europe rather than as a means to ensure peace in the region. European nations who want to be NATO members – such as Ukraine, Sweden and Finland – because of a perceived threat to their security from Russia, have so far failed to come up with a clear answer to a strategic conundrum: while it may be true that only NATO membership can insulate them from the threat of a Russian invasion, isn't it also true that it's the prospect of joining NATO that activates this threat in the first place?

Mr. Stoltenberg, as NATO's top civil servant, and as someone with intimate knowledge of Russia's geopolitical obsessions, could perhaps have done more to prevent the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Of course, that would have entailed challenging NATO's 30-year-old policy of endless eastward expansion. In his eight years as NATO's Secretary General, he would have had plenty of opportunities to do just that.

Tata Motors lifts passenger vehicle prices

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Tata Motors Ltd. has announced an increase in the prices of its passenger vehicles to pass on the rise in input costs to customers.

A weighted average increase in price of 0.55% has come into effect starting Saturday, across the range, depending upon the variant and model, the automaker said.

The company said it had taken extensive measures to absorb a significant portion of the increased input costs. However, to offset the residual impact of the accumulated increase in input costs, it was "passing on a minimised price hike."

The company sells a range of models including Punch, Nexon and Safari.

RBI to remain flexible while aiming to tame inflation: Das

Central bank chief sees likely respite from rising prices in the coming months

REUTERS
MUMBAI

India's central bank will continue calibrating policy to preserve and foster macroeconomic stability while bringing down inflation and will remain flexible in its approach, Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Saturday.

The global economy is going through an uncertain time and concerns around growth and inflation persist, but the central bank believes that there could be some respite from rising prices in the coming months, Mr. Das told an economic forum.

"Our current assessment is that inflation may ease gradually in the second half" of the fiscal year, given a favourable supply outlook and "high frequency indicators pointing to resilience of the recovery" during the three months to June, he said.

Seeing signs: RBI's assessment is that inflation may ease in the fiscal second half, given a favourable supply outlook. • REUTERS

Retail inflation eased marginally in May, after touching an eight-year high of 7.79% in April, but remained above the RBI's tolerance band of 2% to 6% for a fifth month.

The Reserve Bank of India raised its inflation projection for this fiscal to 6.7% from 5.7% earlier. Mr. Das said it will likely remain above the bank's upper tolerance band in the first three quarters of the financial year.

The governor also highlighted the need for enhanced policy coordination and dialogue among countries at a time when global factors play a key role in domestic inflation dynamics.

The bank raised rates by 50 basis points (bps) in June after a 40-bps increase in May, to prevent mounting inflationary pressure from becoming broad-based.

Further rate increases are likely in the coming months, economists predict.

Adani confirms entry into 5G spectrum race

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Adani Group on Saturday confirmed its entry into the race to acquire telecom spectrum, which it said would be used to create a private network to support its businesses from airports to power as well as data centres.

"As India prepares to roll out the next generation of 5G services through this auction, we are one of the many applicants participating in the open bidding process," the group said in a statement.

Adani said it planned to use the airwaves for its data centre and the super app it is building to support businesses from electricity distribution to airports, gas retailing and ports.

INTERVIEW | ANISH SHAH

'Mahindra is on track to take leadership in EVs'

'BII's investment move an affirmation'

LALATENDU MISHRA

The decision by U.K.'s development finance institution, British International Investment (BII), to invest ₹1,925 crore in a new EV company being set up by Mahindra & Mahindra is an affirmation of the group's vision for the business, says **Anish Shah,** MD & CEO, Mahindra Group. Excerpts:

What does this deal mean?

■ For us, this deal is really a value unlock for our shareholders. We have a marquee global investor coming in looking at what our path is, what our products are, and saying 'yes, we think you're on the path to leadership here'. So that's really what it means for us.

Where will the electric business be housed?

■ Mahindra Electric had a bunch of things which we folded back into the main company. We wanted to have a clean slate to start with. So, this will be the first spin off in that sense; this is for passenger four wheelers only and it is going to be asset light. All manufacturing, product development will stay in M&M and be used by this EV company. This company can use M&M brands as well; it may develop its own brands. And the rest of electric stays in M&M, which is three wheelers and electric LCVs – which will happen in future.

What is the investment plan for this new company?

■ The investment plan between FY24 to FY27 is ₹8,000 crore. Product rollout is something we will talk in detail on August 15. But there are a set of products that we have got, that will start rolling out.

And the plan is to have five products, including 4 born electric?

■ That's correct.

How will you fund capex?

■ Today, our cash generation is strong enough to take care of that company. And that part of the capital we have put out as well. So this deal is not just to get money for itself, [but] also to establish the value unlock and... a valuation. And to bring in a very strong partner who can help us in multiple things as we move forward.

You spoke about achieving leadership in the passenger EV four-wheeler segment. Currently, Tata Motors has the leadership... what gives you the confidence?

■ We are very confident based on the success of our current products because consumers will see the current in totality. Electric is one aspect of the car. And if you look at the five blockbuster launches we had, that gives us a lot of confidence in our manufacturing abilities and our engineering skills to be able to develop world class products.

And endorsement from someone like BII helps a lot in terms of, them saying that, yes, we are on track.

Fitness start-up Fittr eyes 100% revenue growth

Firm to onboard 1,000 more coaches

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

Driven by the strong focus on fitness post the pandemic, online fitness start-up Fittr said it aimed to double revenue to ₹200 crore in the current fiscal and expand operations by onboarding 1,000 additional coaches.

"We are going steady," said Jyoti Dabas, co-founder of Fittr and CEO - INFS (Institute of Nutrition and Fitness Sciences). "We have a target for 100% revenue jump this year as well, and for that we need the support of coaches who will drive the other end of the growth and make sure that customers are being serviced well," she added.

Since COVID-19, people have realised they need to prioritise fitness

The company closed FY22 with a revenue of ₹100 crore. Ms. Dabas said since the pandemic, people had realised that they needed to give priority to fitness, which could be done online. Consequently, Fittr's business had grown.

Pointing out that the number of people going out for walks and those looking for healthier options had increased, she said during the pandemic 71,000 new fitness and health apps were unveiled globally.

"We started the online personal training vertical during this time. It has grown 100% over the last one year," Ms. Dabas said.

Musk scraps $44 bn deal to buy Twitter

REUTERS

Tesla Inc. CEO Elon Musk said on Friday he was terminating his $44 billion deal for Twitter Inc., saying that the social media company had failed to provide information about fake accounts on the platform.

Shares of Twitter fell 6% in extended trading.

Mr. Musk's lawyers said Twitter had failed or refused to respond to multiple requests for information on fake or spam accounts on the platform.

Twitter's chairman said the board planned to pursue legal action to enforce the deal.

The billionaire had threatened to halt the deal unless Twitter showed proof that spam and bot accounts were fewer than 5%.

Tata Consumer Products aims to be a 'serious' coffee player

Plans to expand into the South with premium offerings

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Tata Consumer Products Ltd. (TCPL) aims to be a serious player in the coffee business in India by reaching out to more customers in the South and non-southern markets. The company is also focusing on introducing more premium coffee brands to grow its market share, said Puneet Das, president, Packaged Beverages (India & South Asia).

Currently, the market is dominated by Nestle's Nescafe and Hindustan Unilever's Bru brands and Tata has a share of less than 2%.

The company, which introduced Tata Coffee Grand in the instant category for the first time in 2015, has chalked out a strategy to grow the business significantly in the coming years, according to Mr. Das.

Puneet Das

"We have doubled our focus, particularly in the last two years. Recently we have had a series of launches," said Mr. Das. "We also got into the D2C [Direct to Consumer] space. We are really expanding the Tata Coffee portfolio. We recently launched Sonnets by Tata Coffee, which is a premium range in D2C," he added.

Mr. Das said the company had introduced Tata Coffee Gold, a premium offering. "Today, the coffee category is premiumising a lot and consumers are willing to experiment a lot, especially in the South. That's where our foray is," he added.

"For us, there is a lot of headroom for growth. We want to be a serious coffee player and we should become a sizeable player as we move up," he added.

SPORT

LIVE TELECAST

Sri Lanka vs Australia: 2nd Test, day 3, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 10 a.m.
Badminton: Malaysia Masters, Sports 18-1 & Voot Select, 10.30 a.m.
TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 3.15 p.m. & 7.15 p.m.
Wimbledon: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6 p.m.
F1: Austrian GP, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 p.m.
England vs India: 3rd T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 7 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Bajrang's visa hurdle cleared, to train in USA

NEW DELHI

Wrestler Bajrang Punia has received his UK visa for the upcoming Commonwealth Games. The 28-year-old Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist was to leave last month for a training stint in the United States ahead of the Birmingham CWG, but was forced to stay back in India due to a delay in getting his UK visa. Now that he has got his UK visa, Bajrang can train in the US without any anxiety. PTI

Ankita-Rosalie duo in final

VERSMOLD (GERMANY)

Ankita Raina and Rosalie Van der Hoek beat Reka-Luca Jani and Adrienn Nagy 4-6, 6-1, [10-6] in the doubles semifinals of the $100,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Versmold, Germany.

In the other semifinal, top seeds Anna Danilina and Arianne Hartono got past Emily Appleton and Prarthana Thombare 6-3, 6-3.

Bengaluru Saturday's races cancelled

BENGALURU

The Stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club decided to cancel the races to be held on Saturday (July 9) due to inclement weather rendering the underfoot conditions of the race track not conducive for racing.

Rajini on fire yet again

Sarvesh leads Axor Sparks Racing's podium sweep

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power1) posted yet another lights-to-flag victory, his third consecutive, in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc category in the second round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship 2022 at the Madras International Circuit, here on Saturday.

Sarvesh Balappa extended his domination in the Novice class as he led a podium sweep for his team, Axor Sparks Racing.

Later, Deepak Ravikumar scripted a grand recovery for Petronas TVS Racing with a fine win in the Pro-Stock 165cc category. The team had failed to pick up any points in the first round last month, but Ravikumar, displaying top pace, brought some cheer to his team.

He took a comfortable win from Idemitsu Honda SK69 Racing's Rajiv Sethu and Pacer Yamaha team's Mathana Kumar, who had won both the races in the previous round. Petronas TVS Racing missed a 1-2 finish as K.Y. Ahamed, hot on Ravikumar's heels, crashed on exiting the last corner on the last lap.

Victory sign: Rajini Krishnan celebrates his third consecutive win. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hugging the tarmac: Deepak Ravikumar (No. 25) on way to winning the Pro-Stock 165cc race. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Provisional results (all 6 laps unless mentioned): National Championship - Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (Race 1): 1. Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power1, 11mins, 31.191secs); 2. Deepak Ravikumar (Petronas TVS Racing, 13:36.221); 3. Anand Rajendran (Speed Up Racing, 11:38.032).

Pro-Stock 165cc Open (Race 1): 1. Deepak Ravikumar (Petronas TVS Racing, 11:57.737); 2. Rajiv Sethu (Idemitsu Honda SK69 Racing, 12:00.159); 3. Mathana Kumar (Pacer Yamaha, 12:09.991).

Novice (Stock 165cc) Race 1 (Four laps): 1. Sarvesh Balappa (Axor Sparks Racing, 8:48.748); 2. Kayan Zubin Patel (Axor Sparks Racing, 8:49.154; 3. Rohan R. (Axor Sparks Racing, 08:52.856).

Girls (Stock 165cc) Qualifying: 1. Ann Jennifer (Alpha Racing, 02:10.654); 2. Ryhana Bee (Pacer Yamaha, 02:11.002); 3. Deepika Reddy Badam (Alpha Racing, 02:11.518).

Support Race - Stock 301-400cc (Novice): 1. Mihir Vijay Sakpal (Winverve Apex Racing Academy, 12:35.053); 2. Jayanth Prathipati (12:35.073); 3. Ashwin R (12:49.139).

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup - NSF 250R (Race 1): 1. Sarthak Shrikant Chavan (11:26.629); 2. Mohsin Paramban (11:28.643); 3. A.S. James (11:28.995).

Novice (CBR 150, Race-1): 1. Raheesh Mudassar Khatri (13:01.799); 2. Shyam Babu (13:23.491); 3. Rajender Beedani (13:23.541).

Support race - Hornet 2.0 (Race 1): 1. Kayan Zubin Patel (13:45.599); 2. Prabhu V. (13:45.906); 3. G. Balaji (13:50.976).

Petronas TVS One-Make Championship - Rookie (Apache RTR 200): 1. Chiranth Vishwanath (12:34.972); 2. Shreyas Hareesh (12:46.371); 3. Abdul Basim R.S. (12:54.237).

Girls (Apache RTR 200, Five laps): 1. Aditi Krishnan (11:19.322); 2. Ananya Awasthi (11:35.324); 3. Vrishika Vijay Baikar (11:45.098).

Vishwanath and Rohit storm into quarterfinals

The two boxers register 5-0 wins

BOXING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

- SSCB's Vishwanath blanked Sushant of Chandigarh
- Chandigarh's Rohit beat UP's Bhupendra
- Six pugilists from Maharashtra, including four women, made it to the last eight

S. Vishwanath and Rohit Chamoli registered emphatic wins and entered the men's quarterfinals of the fifth National Youth boxing championships here on Saturday.

While Vishwanath, representing Services Sports Control Board (SSCB), thrashed Chandigarh's Sushant Kapoor 5-0 in the 48kg category, Rohit of Chandigarh outpunched Bhupendra Kumar of Uttar Pradesh by a similar margin in the 51kg.

Jadumani Mandengbam (51kg) was the other SSCB boxer to progress, beating Manipur's Edipak Laishram Singh by unanimous decision.

For Chandigarh, besides Rohit, Parineeta Sheoran also advanced to the last-eight stage in the women's section after securing a facile 5-0 win over Andhra Pradesh's Vayshnavi Nethala in the 48kg category.

Also, six pugilists from Maharashtra, including four women, reached the quarterfinals.

Rajasthan's Yamini Kanwar (48kg) got the better of Maharashtra's Janhavi Churi 3-2 while Sunita (Rajasthan, 52kg) won 4-1 against Gujarat's Sanjana Choudhary in their last-16 matches.

Abhishek edges past Schloesser into last four

Poise: Abhishek ended the stalemate with Schloesser with a closer-to-centre decision. • FILE PHOTO

WORLD GAMES

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM (USA)

Star Indian compound archer Abhishek Verma shocked world champion Mike Schloesser to storm into the semifinal of the World Games here.

The two were locked 149-149 after a five-setter duel and the tie-breaker also was a stalemate with both shooting perfect 10s, but the Indian edged out the World No. 1 shooting closer to centre to make the last-four on Friday.

India also remained in the fray in the mixed compound section where Verma and Jyothi Surekha Vennam will play for bronze medal against Mexico.

Van Aert wins stage eight; Pogacar still ahead

TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LAUSANNE

Belgian rider Wout van Aert sprinted to victory in stage eight of the Tour de France at Lausanne on Saturday with defending champion Tadej Pogacar holding the leader's yellow jersey.

Van Aert, of the Jumbo team, won on a late incline ahead of Australia's prestage favourite Michael Matthews with Slovenian Pogacar finishing in third position.

This was a second stage win for van Aert, who also came second three times during the opening stages in Denmark, and extends his lead in the sprint points standings.

Pipped! Van Aert, right, edging out Michael Matthews. • AFP

Pogacar also took a four-second bonus for his third place and extends his overall lead on Jonas Vingegaard at the top of the rankings.

The peloton left Dole in the Jura region under a cloud Saturday morning after Frenchman Geoffrey Bouchard from the AG2R team and Norwegian Vegard Stake Laengen from Pogacar's UAE team tested positive for Covid and were withdrawn.

But cowbell ringing roadside fans cheered the pack along the way to the Swiss border where they caught a glimpse of what is to come with the Alpine mountains rearing into view on the horizon.

An early fall caught Pogacar and third placed Geraint Thomas, while French climber Thibaut Pinot not only fell twice but also took a smack on the nose.

Jadeja, Bhuvneshwar and Bumrah star as India clinches series

Jordan's four-for and debutant Gleeson's triple strike go in vain for England; the home team's batters, barring Moeen and Willey, fail to get going

Swinging away: Jadeja's calculated assault gave India a competitive total. • GETTY IMAGES

INDIA IN ENG

REUTERS
BIRMINGHAM

India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar struck three times as a spirited bowling display from the visiting side helped it outclass England by 49 runs in the second T20I at Edgbaston on Saturday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series.

Bhuvneshwar (3/15) rocked England early in its pursuit of 171, removing Jason Roy with the first ball and then his fellow-opener and England captain Jos Buttler, before Yuzvendra Chahal (2/10) chipped in with two wickets to leave the home side struggling on 55 for five.

Moeen Ali (35) and David Willey (33 n.o.) kept England afloat with entertaining cameos but a flurry of wickets meant that the hosts were bowled out for 121 in 17 overs.

"When the ball swings, you definitely enjoy. In the last few years, there was not much help with the ball in England but this year it's more," said Bhuvneshwar, who was named player-of-the-match.

> **In the last few years, there was not much help with the ball in England but this year it's more**
>
> BHUVNESHWAR

- Gleeson finished with three for 15 in four overs, dismissing India captain Rohit, Kohli and Pant in the process

"White ball getting swing upfront is a motivational factor for fast bowlers, and batters have to take their chances."

Bold new approach

Earlier, India's bold new approach to T20 cricket was on show again after it was put in to bat as Rohit Sharma and Rishabh Pant got stuck into the England attack from the outset, accumulating 61 runs in the PowerPlay.

But that early momentum was halted by paceman Richard Gleeson (3/15), who revelled in a dream debut by claiming the prized scalps of Rohit (31), Virat Kohli (1) and Pant (26) in the space of four balls.

Suryakumar Yadav (15) and Hardik Pandya (12) also departed early, both falling to Chris Jordan (4/27), as England mounted a strong recovery before a 29-ball 46 from Ravindra Jadeja helped India finish on a competitive 170 for eight.

"Brilliant knock [from Jadeja] under pressure. We wanted someone to bat through and get us a score, Jadeja had scored a hundred here (in the fifth Test) and he carried on from there," said India captain Rohit.

> **We wanted someone to bat through and get us a score. Jadeja had scored a hundred here [in the fifth Test] and he carried on from there**
>
> ROHIT

"At no point we were feeling he was panicking. Was good to finish on a score we thought was par on that surface."

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Rohit Sharma c Buttler b Gleeson 31 *(20b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Rishabh Pant c Buttler b Gleeson 26 *(15b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Virat Kohli c Malan b Gleeson 1 *(3b)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Curran b Jordan 15 *(11b, 2x4)*, Hardik Pandya c Malan b Jordan 12 *(15b, 1x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 46 *(29b, 5x4)*, Dinesh Karthik run out 12 *(17b, 1x4)*, Harshal Patel c Gleeson b Jordan 13 *(6b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Bhuvneshwar Kumar c Willey b Jordan 2 *(4b)*, Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (w-12): 12; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 170.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-49 (Rohit, 4.5 overs), 2-61 (Kohli, 6.1), 3-61 (Pant, 6.2), 4-89 (Suryakumar, 10.3), 5-89 (Hardik, 10.4), 6-122 (Karthik, 15.1), 7-145 (Harshal, 16.6), 8-159 (Bhuvneshwar, 18.6).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Willey 3-0-35-0, Curran 3-0-26-0, Moeen 2-0-23-0, Gleeson 4-1-15-3, Parkinson 2-0-21-0, Jordan 4-0-27-4, Livingstone 2-0-23-0.

ENGLAND

Jason Roy c Rohit b Bhuvneshwar 0 *(1b)*, Jos Buttler c Pant b Bhuvneshwar 4 *(5b)*, Dawid Malan c Harshal b Chahal 19 *(25b, 2x4)*, Liam Livingstone b Bumrah 15 *(9b, 3x4)*, Harry Brook c Suryakumar b Chahal 8 *(9b, 2x4)*, Moeen Ali c Rohit b Hardik 35 *(21b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Sam Curran c Hardik b Bumrah 2 *(4b)*, David Willey (not out) 33 *(22b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Chris Jordan run out 1 *(1b)*, Richard Gleeson c Kohli b Bhuvneshwar 2 *(3b)*, Matt Parkinson b Harshal 0 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (in 17 overs): 121.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Roy, 0.1), 2-11 (Buttler, 2.3), 3-27 (Livingstone, 4.1), 4-41 (Brook, 6.4), 5-55 (Malan, 9.1), 6-60 (Curran, 10.2), 7-94 (Moeen, 14.2), 8-95 (Jordan, 14.3), 9-109 (Gleeson, 15.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 3-1-15-3, Bumrah 3-1-10-2, Hardik 3-0-29-1, Harshal 4-0-34-1, Chahal 2-0-10-2, Jadeja 2-0-22-0.

Toss: England; **MoM:** Bhuvneshwar.

India won by 49 runs to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in three-match series.

Third T20I: July 10 (Sunday), Nottingham, 7 p.m. IST.

Telling spell: Bhuvneshwar broke the back of the England innings with a couple of early strikes. • GETTY IMAGES

- **1** India is the first team to bowl out England for less than 150 in two straight T20Is
- **1/8** Jadeja has been dismissed only once in his last eight T20I innings
- **4** India has registered its fourth successive T20I series win over England, second away from home
- **6** Only six bowlers have dismissed Buttler twice in the same T20I series. Bhuvneshwar has done it twice (2021, 2022)
- Buttler vs Bhuvneshwar in T20Is: 66 runs, 69 balls, 5 wickets
- **14** Rohit's consecutive wins as captain in T20Is, extending his own world record of 13
- India hasn't lost a single T20I series since the T20 World Cup last year

Karunaratne, Kusal lead Lanka's reply

Smith remains not out on 145; Jayasuriya scalps six on debut

AUS IN SRI LANKA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GALLE

Skipper Dimuth Karunaratne and Kusal Mendis hit gritty half-centuries on Saturday to lead a strong Sri Lankan reply on day two of the second Test against Australia. The hosts reached 184 for two at stumps.

Karunaratne made 86 in a marathon stand of 152 with Kusal before Mitchell Swepson broke through with the captain's wicket.

Kusal was still batting on 84 alongside Angelo Mathews, on six, at close of play, with Sri Lanka trailing Australia's first innings 364 by 180 runs.

Debutant Sri Lankan spinner Prabhat Jayasuriya claimed six wickets to bowl out Australia in the first session, with Steve Smith left unbeaten on 145.

The hosts were dealt an early blow when Mitchell Starc got Pathum Nissanka to edge the ball to gully, where Cameron Green took a good catch.

Inspired spell

The left hand-right hand batting pair of Karunaratne and Kusal survived an inspired spell of pace bowling from Starc and skipper Pat Cummins to grind their way through the afternoon.

Karunaratne raised his fifty with a boundary off Swepson, while Kusal's stubborn resistance prompted Australia to rotate their bowlers.

The visitors started the day on 298 for five with Smith, who scored his first Test hundred in 18 months on day one, resuming on his 109.

Jayasuriya. • AFP

SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: Usman Khawaja b R. Mendis 37, David Warner b Rajitha 5, Marnus Labuschagne st Dickwella b Jayasuriya 104, Steve Smith (not out) 145, Travis Head b Jayasuriya 12, Cameron Green lbw b Jayasuriya 4, Alex Carey c R. Mendis b Jayasuriya 28, Mitchell Starc c K. Mendis b Jayasuriya 1, Pat Cummins lbw b Rajitha 5, Nathan Lyon lbw b Jayasuriya 5, Mitchell Swepson lbw b Theekshana 3; Extras (b-5, lb-6, w-1, nb-3): 15; Total (in 110 overs): 364.

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-70, 3-204, 4-238, 5-252, 6-329, 7-333, 8-338, 9-345.

Sri Lanka bowling: Rajitha 25-4-70-2, R. Mendis 33-1-117-1, Theekshana 16-2-48-1, Jayasuriya 36-3-118-6.

Sri Lanka — 1st innings: Pathum Nissanka c Green b Starc 6, Dimuth Karunaratne lbw b Swepson 86, Kusal Mendis (batting) 84, Angelo Mathews (batting) 6; Extras (b-1, w-1): 2; Total (for two wkts. in 63 overs): 184.

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-164.

Australia bowling: Starc 12-2-28-1, Cummins 13-4-34-0, Lyon 21-1-69-0, Green 3-0-8-0, Swepson 11-2-31-1, Head 3-0-13-0.

Rybakina battles back to stun Jabeur in entertaining final

The Moscow-born player becomes the first from Kazakhstan to win a Grand Slam singles title

REUTERS
LONDON

Moscow-born Elena Rybakina rallied from a set down to defeat Tunisia's World No. 2 Ons Jabeur 3-6 6-2 6-2 in an entertaining final on Saturday to become the first player from Kazakhstan to win a Grand Slam singles title at Wimbledon.

With the Russian and Belarussian players banned from the grass-court Major following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, Rybakina would have been excluded from this year's Wimbledon had she not switched allegiance from Russia four years ago.

But even if the repeated questions on her links to Russia during the past fortnight impacted Rybakina mentally, it did not affect the 23-year-old's game.

In a final featuring two first-time Grand Slam finalists for the first time since 1962, it was the lanky Rybakina who lifted the Venus Rosewater Dish after another power-packed performance to become the fifth different women's champion in as many editions at the All England Club.

Before Saturday's final, Rybakina and Jabeur had met three times and both players had won a match apiece before the Moscow-born Rybakina retired due to illness in Chicago in their last showdown a year ago.

Rybakina's booming delivery was supposed to be a key factor in Saturday's contest but it was Jabeur who had less trouble in holding on to her serve in the opening stages on a sun-bathed Centre Court.

Jabeur's ploy to mix things up clearly upset Rybakina's rhythm as the Tunisian landed the first blow with a break in the third game.

Stepping inside the baseline to punish her opponent's second serve, Jabeur made optimum use of her slices during the rallies to slow the pace down.

Rybakina appeared to lose the plot while trailing 3-5 as she committed four unforced errors — including a double fault — to hand Jabeur a second break and with it the opening set in just 32 minutes.

But the match was far from over. The momentum shifted in the Kazakh player's favour as she nosed ahead in the second set with an early break.

The red-framed racket of Rybakina was suddenly spitting fire while she demonstrated the agility to run down Jabeur's drop shots despite her tall frame.

Jabeur tried to match Rybakina's power but instead her game unravelled. The drop shots started looking less venomous as Rybakina also cut down on her unforced errors.

The Tunisian had three chances to level things up during a lengthy fourth game but Rybakina held firm and then broke Jabeur in the next game to take a 4-1 lead.

Three games later the 17th seed slammed down an 116mph ace to send the contest into a deciding set.

Rybakina took the lead by breaking Jabeur in the opening game of the final set and never looked back.

Running hot: Rybakina found the momentum in the second set with an early break and sustained it till the end. • GETTY IMAGES

The Rybakina file

- *Date of birth:* June 17, 1999
- *Place of birth:* Moscow
- *Ranking:* 23
- *Titles:* 3 (Wimbledon 2022; Hobart 2020; Bucharest 2019)
- *Grand Slam:* 1 (Wimbledon 2022)

> **I have never felt anything like this before**
>
> — RYBAKINA

Recent women's champions

- *2022:* Elena Rybakina (Kaz)
- *2021:* Ashleigh Barty (Aus)
- *2020:* Tournament cancelled
- *2019:* Simona Halep (Rou)
- *2018:* Angelique Kerber (Ger)

Verstappen sprints to pole

Leclerc, Sainz take the next two slots

AUSTRIAN GP

REUTERS
SPIELBERG

Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen beat his battling Ferrari rivals to win a Saturday sprint race and put Red Bull on pole position for Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix at his team's home track here.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc will line up alongside the Dutch driver on the front row after a scrap for second with teammate Carlos Sainz, who finished third.

The victory at the Red Bull Ring stretched Verstappen's championship lead to 38 points over teammate Sergio Perez, who finished fifth after starting 13th.

The sprint race awards points to the top eight, with the winner taking eight.

Way ahead: Verstappen extended his championship lead to 38 points. • AFP

Prannoy goes down fighting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KUALA LUMPUR

H.S. Prannoy's fine run at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament ended in a three-game loss to Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus in an error-ridden men's singles semifinal here on Saturday.

It was heartbreak once again in the semifinals for the Indian as he squandered a one-game advantage to go down 21-17, 9-21, 17-21 to Ng after battling for an hour and four minutes.

Prannoy began well, taking the first game 21-17. With errors piling up, the Indian decided to conserve his energy for the decider as he lost the second 9-21.

In the third game, the Indian looked in control initially, establishing an 8-3 lead.

However, Ng scripted a sensational recovery. He drew parity finding the net and then punished the Indian's weak returns.

Djokovic. • REUTERS

Kyrgios' lethal range will test Djokovic

Aussie's unpredictability can also unsettle the Serb

REUTERS
LONDON

Novak Djokovic has contested 31 Grand Slam finals and faced just about every scenario possible in collecting 20 titles but even he will not know what to expect in Sunday's Wimbledon showdown against Australian showman Nick Kyrgios.

The 35-year-old Serbian, bidding for a fourth successive title, will prepare for every eventuality but the likelihood is that World No. 40 Kyrgios will still conjure up some surprises. It could be an underarm serve played between the legs on the first point of the match, a tweener drop shot from the baseline on a break point or picking a fight with a fan.

But Djokovic will know that amidst all the theatre and bravado, Kyrgios possesses a lethal range of grass-court weapons that threaten to end his 27-match unbeaten run at The Championships. He will start as favourite but, significantly, in their only two previous meetings, both in 2017, Djokovic did not win a set, did not break the Kyrgios serve and had only one break point.

Service missiles

Djokovic is regarded as one of the best returners, but such is the potency and disguise of the Kyrgios delivery that, if it is firing, the defending champion's patience will be tested to the maximum.

"I guess it's going to be a game of small margins," said Djokovic, who is bidding for a seventh crown.

Kyrgios seeks to become the first Australian man to win a Grand Slam singles title since Lleyton Hewitt did here in 2002.

The big question now is how will he react to the occasion?

Nerves and adrenaline could ignite the old volatility but if Kyrgios harnesses the unique shot-making ability that some describe as genius, Sunday could be the day that tennis's enfant terrible becomes the new king of Centre Court.

"I feel like it's the pinnacle of tennis," he said. "I'm going to give it my all and we'll see what happens."

Kyrgios. • GETTY IMAGES

India takes on Spain, eyes quarterfinal berth

We will give our everything to qualify, says Savita

Creditable show: The Indians gave a gritty display in a narrow loss to New Zealand in their final Pool-B game. • TWITTER@THEHOCKEYINDIA

WORLD CUP

ANI
TERRASSA (SPAIN)

The Indian women's hockey team, after finishing third in Pool B, will take on hosts Spain on Sunday in the FIH World Cup crossover match for a place in the quarterfinals.

The Indian team, led by goalkeeper Savita, played out two thrilling draws against England (1-1) and China (1-1) before suffering a narrow 3-4 loss against New Zealand in their pool stage of the tournament.

Reflecting on the campaign so far, Savita said, "We knew the pool matches were going to be really tough. We fought hard and never gave up, but it's just that the results haven't been in our favour.

"However, we should quickly put it behind us, and focus on what's next. We are still in contention and will give our everything to qualify for the quarterfinals."

Meanwhile, vice-captain Deep Grace Ekka stressed on the need to make further improvements.

"I think we could have played a lot better in the three matches we played. We created many chances in the pool stage, especially in the last game, but our conversion was not up to the mark.

Need to be more clinical

"So, we certainly have to improve on our conversion, we have to be more clinical. At the end, it's all about converting those opportunities," she stated.

The home side Spain registered two wins and a loss in the pool stage. It started its campaign with a 4-1 win against Canada but lost 1-4 to Argentina in its second match. However, the team bounced back with a 4-1 victory over Korea to finish second in Pool C.

The last time when India and Spain faced each other was during the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021-22, where both teams shared the honours. India won the first match 2-1, while Spain responded with a 4-3 win in the second leg of the doubleheader held in Bhubaneswar earlier this year.

Focus on ourselves

Speaking about the match-up against Spain, Savita said, "Spain are a very good team and they are playing at their home so it will be a challenging match.

"However, we have played against them in the Pro League this year, so we are quite familiar with how they have been playing in recent times. But, the focus tomorrow will be on ourselves, on how we execute our plans. We will have to play our A-game against them for sure."

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Akshay stars in Bharath's win

Akshay (35 points) helped Bharath SU defeat JSC 100-94 in the State 'B' division basketball league here.

The results: Bharath SU 100 (Akshay 35, Nakul 26) bt JSC 94 (Aniketh 33, Sathyanath 30); KSP 85 (Manoj 17, Nikhil 14) bt Protech Association 67 (Arjun 10); Rising Star 72 (Supradeep 38) bt Devanga Union 69 (Rohan 24); Bosch 63 (Rajeshwar 21) bt Koramangala BC 41 (Abhishek John 10).

Dheeraj, Vishal turn in super performances

Dheeraj Gowda (4/49 and 101 n.o.) powered Swastic Union (2) past Rajajinagar Cricketers in the KSCA under-19 inter-club tournament, while Vishal Onat's unbeaten 200 took Swastic Union (1) to an easy win over Hanumanthnagar CC.

The results: Rajajinagar Cricketers 218 in 45.2 overs (G. Udhay 34, R. Vivek 50, Dheeraj Gowda 4/49, Lakshan 4/25) lost to Swastic Union (2) 221/4 in 36.1 overs (Dheeraj Gowda 101 n.o., U. Karan 85). Jawahar (2) 134 in 30.4 overs (G. Dhanush 39, Nouman Rahaman 5/33) bt Friends Union Cricketers (KGF) 87 in 31.4 overs (G. Dhanush 5/17). Swastic Union (1) 389/3 in 50 overs (Vishal Onat 200 n.o., Anirudh Srinivas 63, Aashish Mahesh 81) bt Hanumanthnagar 150/6 in 50 overs (Amogh Shetty 50, Guru Shreyas 27 n.o.).

The Bangalore Cricketers 241/6 in 45 overs (D.S. Bhushan 42, S. Daivik 81, M. Vishruth 44) bt Chintamani SA 156 in 37.1 overs (Adoksh Vishwanath 27, P. Gourav 58, Vrishin Arinjai 32, S. Daivik 5/23).

Century Cricketers 149 in 41.2 overs (Shivpratap Singh 33, Dhyaan Aithal 66, Hardik Raj 4/31) lost to Jawahar (1) 153/5 in 26.2 overs (S. Chaitanya 30, M.P. Samarth 60 n.o., Shivpratap Singh 3/29). Engrades 263/9 in 50 overs (Karna Surya 135, S. Sachin 36, Pranav Belur 3/43) bt Cavaliers 208 in 46.1 overs (Visvesh Subramanian 42, Chethan Kumar 26, Yogesh 5/38).

Shubhang, Chethana help Cambridge take lead

Shubhang Hegde (6/91 and 94) and L.R. Chethana (174) helped Cambridge CC grab the first-innings lead over Swastic Union (2) in their drawn KSCA Group I, Division I league match here.

Nikin Jose's 158 was the highlight in Sir Syed Cricketer's drawn encounter against Friends Union CC (1).

The scores: Swastic Union (2) 340 in 89 overs (Vishal Onat 26, Mashooq Hussain 39, Naga Bharath 26, Gaurav Dhiman 95, S.S. Sujay 107, Shubhang Hegde 6/91) drew with Cambridge 378/7 decl. in 72.1 overs (L.R. Chethana 174, Vinay Sagar 30, Shubhang Hegde 94, Lochan Apparna 54). Sir Syed Cricketers 422/6 in 90 overs (Rohan Patil 40, Nikin Jose 158, M.S. Bhandage 95, B.A. Mohith 86, Utham Aiyappa 4/70) drew with Friends Union CC (1) 438/9 decl. in 86.5 overs (B.U. Shivakumar 39, K. Shashindra 67, G.S. Chiranjeevi 118, Mithun Bhat 30, Rishi Boparna 45, Utham Aiyappa 50 n.o., Kushaal Mahesh 3/102). Vultures 410/7 in 80.2 overs (K.L. Shrijith 26, R. Smaran 140 n.o., Praveen Dubey 32, J. Suchith 52, A. Mithun 79) drew with Bangalore United (1) 341 in 73.2 overs (Tushar Singh 55, M. Venkatesh 68, Lavish Kaushal 63, Santokh Singh 5/64, J. Suchith 3/46). Social Cricketers 372/7 decl. in 77 overs (Sudhanwa Kulkarni 90, K.V. Aneesh 77, Aadarsh Prajwal 87, Prithviraj 33, V. Vyshak 37, Dushyanth Venkat 3/100) drew with Chintamani SA 200 in 65.4 overs (Swapnil Shivaji 39, Abheet Kuthpady 71, V. Vyshak 4/53, D. Avinash 3/31) and 35/1. Rajajinagar Cricketers 339 in 77.5 overs (S. Nithin 35, Nihal Ullal 26, Nitin Bhille 63, K. Rohit 27, Kranthi Kumar 39, S.M. Shamanth 62, V. Koushik 30 n.o., Mohit Kumar 5/88) drew with Mount Joy 139 in 55.2 overs (Aditya Somanna 52 n.o., S.M. Shamanth 3/35) and 85/5 in 30 overs (Sagar Solanki 30). Swastic Union (1) 340 in 70.4 overs (R. Samarth 108, E.J. Jasper 39, N.A. Chinmay 36, Shishir Bhavane 35, S. Rakshith 40, Aneeshwar Gautam 5/89) drew with Modern 272 in 84.4 overs (Dheeraj Gowda 44, Rishi Bhansali 31, Aneeshwar Gautam 87, Vishnu Jain 49, K.S. Devaiah 5/70).

Dhanalakshmi yet to finish visa formalities

ATHLETICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Ace Indian 200m runner Dhanalakshmi Sekar is yet to complete her US visa formalities, which was the reason why her name was not there in the list of Indian participants released by the international track and field governing body for the upcoming World Athletics Championships in Eugene, USA.

Dhanalakshmi was on June 30 named in the 22-member Indian team for the July 15-24 World Championships in Eugene, USA. But now, it could be difficult for her to take part in the showpiece as she is even yet to complete visa formalities.

"My visa is yet to be done. My first visa appointment got cancelled, so trying to get it done," she said.

The Tamil Nadu athlete could not breach the automatic qualification standard of 22.80s but made the cut for the World Championships through world rankings.

She had run her personal best time of 22.89s to win

S. Dhanalakshmi
• VELANKANNI RAJ

200m gold at the Qosanov Memorial Athletics Meet in Almaty, Kazakhstan and become only the third Indian woman to run sub-23s after national record holder Saraswati Saha (22.82s) and Hima Das (22.88s).

Dhanalakshmi had won a 200m gold at the national Inter-Sate Championships in Chennai in mid-June with a time of 23.27s.

The list of Indian participants put up in the World Athletics website also does not have 4x400m relay team contender Arokia Rajiv, who had pulled out of the second trial conducted on Friday in Patiala.

Vishesh at the helm

BASKETBALL

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Vishesh Bhriguvanshi will lead the Indian team in the FIBA Asia Cup basketball tournament, which commences at Jakarta on Tuesday.

The squad: Muin Bek Hafeez, Arvind Kumar, Vishesh Bhriguvanshi, Sahaij Pratap, Amarendra Nayak, Vivek Vinubhai, Kushal Singh, Pranav Prince, Prashant Singh, Pratyanshu Tomar, Aryan, Amritpal Singh. **Head coach:** Veselin Matic; **coaches:** M.C. Thankachan, P.S. Santosh

India's schedule: July 13 (v NZ), 15 (Philippines), 17 (Lebanon).

IN BRIEF

India has a good chance at CWG: Mithali

KOLKATA

Mithali Raj feels the women's cricket team has a great chance to finish on the podium in the upcoming Commonwealth Games, provided it has its tactics and strategies in place. Women's cricket will make its debut in the Birmingham Games »11

THE HINDU GROUP

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